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WAR

RED COATS

THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE'S
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How fewer than 200 soldiers held
off the might of the Zulu nation

SEVEN YEARS' WAR

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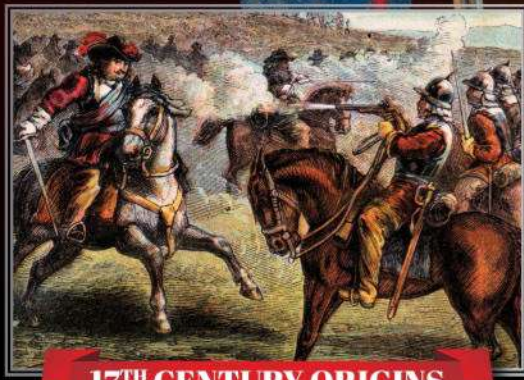
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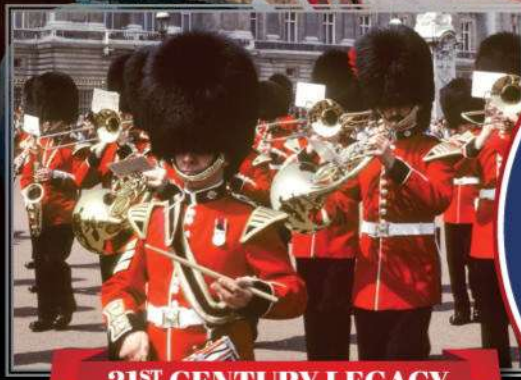
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17TH CENTURY ORIGINS



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REDCOATS

For hundreds of years, the distinctive red coat that gave British troops their nickname was synonymous with an ideal of military discipline, tactical prowess and the (sometimes misplaced) might of empire. Now, discover the historical roots of the iconic redcoat, from their tentative beginnings in the Irish rebellions of the Elizabethan era to the New Model Army of Oliver Cromwell, its role in the Restoration of the British monarchy, and how this standing army became the scarlet-clad fighting force famed for engagements the world over, from the shores of the British Isles to Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. Learn about some of the British Army's greatest victories and most disastrous defeats, explore the theatres of war that they were deployed to, and discover how the memory of the brave redcoat and what he stood – and was prepared to die – for has informed British military and royal tradition to this day.



「 FUTURE 」



REDCOATS

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Printed in the UK

Distributed by Marketforce, 5 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HU

www.marketforce.co.uk

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All About History Book of Redcoats Seventh Edition (AHB5737)

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Future plc is a public
company quoted on the
London Stock Exchange
(symbol: FUTR)

www.futureplc.com

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Part of the

HISTORY of WAR

bookazine series



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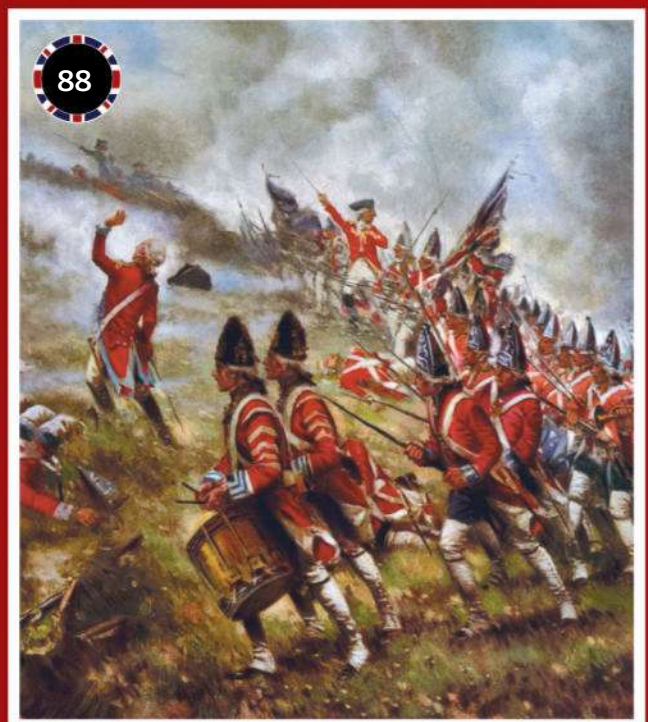
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REIGN OF THE REDCOAT

For more than three centuries, the red coat has been indicative of the British Army and its prowess as a military force

Emblematic of the power and prestige of the British Army, the red coat once held supreme sway across the Empire and beyond. Its presence was indicative of military discipline, commitment, courage and esprit de corps. Although its role has evolved to one of pomp and ceremony today, the iconic red coat remains a symbol of the British military.

Like many great legends, the origin of the red coat is shrouded in theory, conjecture and lore. Most historians conclude that its rise to prominence was the result of a combination of advancing military tactics, recognition on the battlefield, convenience and cost considerations, and – above all – tradition.

Rise of the redcoat

Earliest references to the term 'redcoat' to describe the British soldier may be found during

the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. At the Battle of the Red Sagums in 1561, Irish clansmen under Shane O'Neill defeated a detachment of the English Army clad in red or russet cloaks, inflicting casualties estimated as high as 400. The battle itself became commonly associated with the word 'sagum', Irish Gaelic for coat or cloak. Irish exiles and emigrants from Tudor and Stuart England were thought to have exported the slang 'redcoat' ('British soldier') to Europe.

There are at least two additional historical acknowledgments of redcoats fighting in Ireland known. One of these was a 1581 encounter during the Second Desmond Rebellion. Contemporary historian Philip O'Sullivan Beare recounts, "...a company of English soldiers, distinguished by their dress and arms, who were called 'red coats' and being sent to war by the Queen were overwhelmed near Lismore by John Fitzedmund Fitzgerald...." The second

mentions the 1599 defeat of "English recruits clad in red coats" at the hands of Irishmen under William Burke, Lord of Bealatury.

During the English Civil War, references to certain regiments as 'bluecoats' or 'whitecoats' were fairly common based on the issue to troops of clothing similar to that of their commanders. Therefore, it follows that the founding of the New Model Army in 1645 and the adoption of a madder-red coloured coat would engender the term 'redcoat'.

By the time of the American Revolution, the British Army had been outfitted in red and white uniforms for nearly 150 years. American subjects of the crown routinely referred to the soldiers as 'redcoats'.

House of Tudor

After defeating Richard III and the House of York at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485,

REDCOAT MARCH THROUGH TIME

RED BECOMES REAL 1491

The Yeomen of the Guard begin wearing red uniforms during the reign of King Henry VIII.

AN ORDER FOR GREEN OR RED 1584

The Lords and Council notify the Sheriffs and Justices of Lancashire to raise 200 men to serve in Ireland and outfit them in either green or red.

BATTLE OF THE DUNES 14 JUNE 1658

The first engagement of the English Army in continental Europe while wearing red coats results in victory as the soldiers of the New Model Army display tremendous heroism.

HENRY VII CREATES YEOMEN OF THE GUARD 1485

The Yeomen of the Guard form the royal bodyguard for King Henry VII, leading to the introduction of red uniforms in the English military.

THE NEW MODEL ARMY 1645

The Protectorate Parliament authorises the New Model Army, the first professional standing army in British history, which is outfitted in red coats.

STANDARDISING THE STYLE 16 JANUARY 1707

A royal warrant establishes a Board of General Officers to standardise the British Army uniform rather than relying on regimental commanders to arrange for their own units' clothing.

BATTLE OF THE RED SAGUMS 18 JULY 1561

During the first known battle in which English soldiers wear red cloaks or coats, Irish soldiers win the day, inflicting up to 400 casualties.

FACING FORWARD 1747

Clothing regulations, including royal warrants, provide for a series of colours to be worn on the facings, including cuffs, lapels, and collars, of various regimental uniforms.



THE REASONS FOR RED

In addition to cost considerations, the adoption of red coats for the ranks of the British Army occurred for several reasons. The popular myth that red would obscure the flow of blood from combat wounds is specious. Bloodstains on the red actually appear black. However, amid the smoke of battle the red coat helped to distinguish friend from foe, assisted commanders in the



disposition of troops, and prevented the enemy from accurately assessing the numbers of British soldiers on the field. Tightly packed red ranks appeared as a solid block. In time, the red coat became symbolic of worldwide British military might and actually raised the morale of the soldiers who wore it. The increasing accuracy of artillery and proliferation of highly accurate rifles rather than muskets were among the factors resulting in standard-issue red giving way to khaki.

“LIKE MANY GREAT LEGENDS, THE ORIGIN OF THE RED COAT AS A DISTINCTIVELY BRITISH IMAGE IS SHROUDED IN THEORY, CONJECTURE, AND LORE”

Henry Tudor became King Henry VII and took measures to ensure the stability of his reign along with his personal safety in the wake of civil war. Henry VII established the Yeomen of the Guard as his personal bodyguard. Although these trusted soldiers initially wore green and white clothing representative of the Tudors, a generation later their primary uniform colour had transitioned to red under King Henry VIII.

Perhaps the conversion was in response to the growing recognition of red as symbolic of the English nation. The ancient Cross of St George was depicted in red on the early English flag. The House of Lancaster was represented

by the red rose during the War of the Roses, while the House of York was known by the white rose. Representations of these were combined in the Tudor rose.

Civil War and Remembrance

When the English Parliament authorised the formation of the New Model Army in 1645, the chosen colour for its uniform was russet, reddish brown, or even red. This choice was made due to the relatively low cost of a readily available dye called Venetian red. The first appearance of the red coat in battle on the continent occurred during the victory at the

Battle of the Dunes in Flanders during the Anglo-Spanish War in 1658.

Interestingly, in the years following the Civil War, the government continued the purchase of the red coats for the military because of the low cost of production. In time, however, this financially driven decision gave rise to the familiar red coat as standard issue in the British Army. As the earlier long coat was replaced by the tight-fitting coatee with short tails in the early 18th century, varied facings to denote certain regiments or other affiliations came into usage on the cuffs, collars, and lapels of the uniforms of both officers and foot soldiers.

While the red coat became the symbol of the British Army, it was also standard among the armed forces of other European countries; however, British preeminence, power, and repeated victories on the battlefield firmly entrenched the red coat in the hearts and minds of the British military, the people, and the rest of the world. Victories at such battles as Blenheim in 1704, Quebec in 1759, Salamanca in 1812, Waterloo in 1815, and Inkerman in 1854 made the red coat synonymous with the eventual victory and far-reaching rule of the British crown.

During the Mahdist War of 1881-1899, a British officer was reported to have ordered his troops as they reached Khartoum in Sudan to fight in their red coats so that the enemy would know that the real British Army had arrived. The last time the British Army fought while clad in the iconic red coat was during that war at the Battle of Ginnis on 30 December 1885.

The red tunic was standard issue for the British Army through the dawn of the 20th century, discontinued most fully at the outbreak of World War I, although khaki service dress had been implemented in 1902. Still, the time-honoured red coat remains. Today, it is worn by the Foot Guards, the Life Guards, ceremonial organisations such as the Yeomen of the Guard and Yeoman Warders, and regimental bands, while officers and noncommissioned officers of regiments that once regularly wore the red coat continue to do so in full dress uniform. This includes members of the British royal family.

LONG AND SHORT OF IT 1797

The original long coat is abandoned for a tight coatee for comfort and more freedom of movement on the battlefield.

CHILDERS MAKES CHANGES 1 MAY 1881

Initiated by Secretary of State for War Hugh Childers, the so-called Childers Reforms are intended to standardise uniforms and restructure the Army itself.

KHAKI TO THE FRONT 1902

Based largely upon experience in India and the willingness of some progressive officers to sponsor its introduction, khaki service dress is approved for the British Army.

WORLD WAR WEAR 1914

In August, the general issue of scarlet tunics ceases in the British Army in favour of subdued colors, relegating the famed red coat substantially to ceremonial use.

HEAT IN THE CRIMEA 1855

The combat experience during the Crimean War, particularly the heat and heavy wool of the red coat, influences future uniform designs.

SCARLET SWAN SONG 30 DEC 1885

In the Battle of Ginnis, the last engagement during which British Army troops wear red coats, they inflict a defeat on Islamic Mahdi rebels in Sudan.

PRINCE WILLIAM WEARS RED 29 APRIL 2011

Prince William wears the scarlet Irish Guards Mounted Officer's Uniform, in Guard of Honour Order, during his wedding to Catherine Middleton, in tribute to a battalion recently returned from Afghanistan.



THE NEW MODEL CROMWELL'S REBEL ARMY

This first professional standing army conquered all before it, launching Britain on the path towards global domination



In the 1640s, people of all classes were embroiled in a grim struggle over a fundamental question – who was the supreme power in the land, the king or parliament? The British Civil Wars raged for a decade and became a cataclysmic struggle for England's soul. It was also a conflict that would engulf Wales, Scotland and Ireland with devastating consequences. The resulting chaos saw the execution of a king and the establishment of a republican Commonwealth. Two things were largely responsible for making this radical change possible. One was an obscurely born MP from Huntingdon called Oliver Cromwell; the other was the most innovative military force of the age – the New Model Army.

When Charles I declared war on 22 August 1642, the Royalist and Parliamentary armies were evenly matched – both amateur in attitude and performance, particularly regarding their commanders. On the Royalist side, Prince Rupert of the Rhine was an experienced soldier but also hot-headed and unable to control the cavalry under his command. During the first major battle of the war, at Edgehill on 23 October 1642, the Royalists nearly won the day having broken through the Roundhead lines with a cavalry charge. However, this breakthrough was not properly followed up as Rupert's cavalry charged away from the battlefield to loot nearby villages – the end result was stalemate. Similarly, Parliamentary forces were at first commanded by ineffectual aristocrats such as the Earls of Essex and

Manchester, whose field strategy was timid and lethargic. This meant there was no decisive battle for the first two years of the war. Oliver Cromwell observed these circumstances from the sidelines with frustration, and resolved to change the situation to parliament's advantage.

Already in his 40s when the war broke out, and without any military training, Cromwell was an unexpected innovator determined to reorganise parliament's army. His personal strength stemmed from his religious fervour. In an age where religion dictated everything, Cromwell was a zealot, seeing the hand of God in everything. This enabled him to be a supremely confident commander who was willing to take risks. In 1643, he formed his own cavalry regiment in Huntingdon, initially known as the Army of the Eastern Association

Dunbar 1650. This remarkable battle saw the New Model Army completely rout a Scottish force twice its size

“THE BRITISH CIVIL WARS RAGED FOR A DECADE AND BECAME A CATAclysmic STRUGGLE FOR ENGLAND'S SOUL”

HISTORY OF THE REDCOATS

but remembered by history as the 'Ironsides'. This force was at first composed of determined Puritan farmers, deliberately chosen for their strict religious resolve. Cromwell's training of his Ironsides made him stand out against other commanders, particularly his Royalist counterparts. He followed the common practice of arranging his cavalry in three ranks, while leading them forward for impact rather than firepower. However, he also encouraged his troops to charge in close formation, riding knee-to-knee – a tactic already familiar in Europe, but entirely new to English shores. Cromwell quickly became an ambitious professional soldier and his Ironsides an asset on the battlefield.

Cromwell's cavalry played a notable part in the Parliamentary victory at the Battle of Marston Moor on 2 July 1644. Unlike their Royalist counterparts, the Ironsides stayed on the battlefield after their initial charge and attacked the Royalist infantry. This show of discipline secured the north of England for parliament and sealed Cromwell's reputation. Nonetheless, the army was still commanded by incompetent nobles who did not follow up Marston Moor with similar victories, much to Cromwell's frustration. After the Earl of Manchester failed to chase Charles I to Bath at the Second Battle of Newbury, Cromwell decided that the existing commanders had to be replaced by professionals. He was not alone in this view – another Roundhead commander, Sir William Waller, wrote to parliament stating: "Till you have an army merely your own that you may command, it is in a manner impossible to do anything of importance."

In early 1645, the 'New Model Ordinance' was passed, which encompassed a total reorganisation of parliament's army. This new force

was to have 22,000 men in which there would be 12 regiments of foot – 1,200 men in each section. Each regiment would contain two-thirds musketeers and one-third pikemen. Additionally, there would be 11 cavalry regiments, one regiment of dragoons and an artillery train of 50 guns. The highly experienced Sir Thomas Fairfax would command the army and Philip Skippon the infantry.

In April 1645, Cromwell forced through the 'Self-Denying Ordinance' bill, preventing MPs in the House of Lords and Commons from holding military positions. Essex and Manchester resigned, but Cromwell, as MP for Cambridge, was considered too important and so kept his command. Fairfax made Cromwell the commander of the cavalry, with the Ironsides forming the nucleus of parliament's force. The New Model Army was born.

Cromwell and Fairfax quickly developed the New Model into an efficient force. In a unique move for the period, officers were appointed and promoted on merit rather than social standing. Like Colonel Pride, a former brewer, these officers also often came from humble origins. Discipline was strictly enforced but soldiers were compensated with regular pay. Infantrymen were paid eight pence a day while the cavalry received two shillings, as they had to supply their own horses and pay for their upkeep. The New Model's structure was also well organised. Officers undertook specific duties, such as the administration of justice and the acquisition of supplies. These tasks were performed nationally and under a unified command. By contrast, the Royalists were

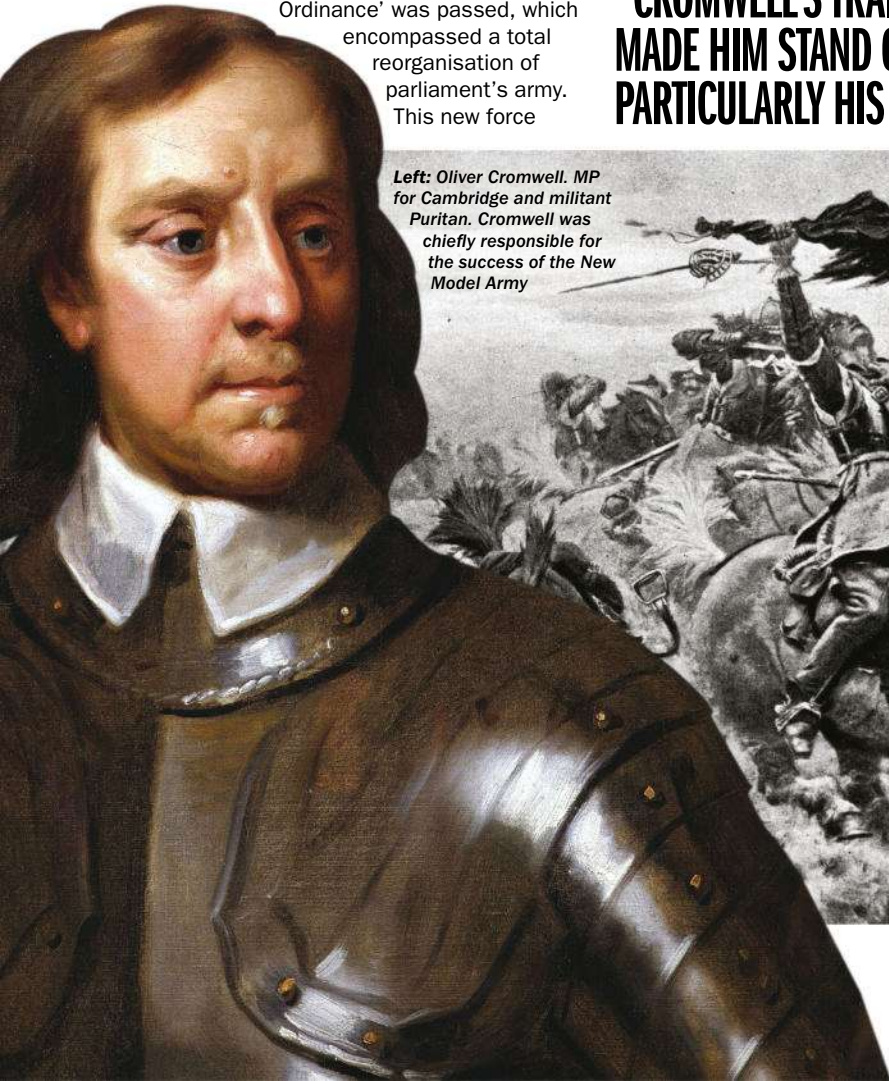


Right: Sir Thomas Fairfax was the talented first commander-in-chief of the New Model Army. The decisive Battle of Naseby was won under his command

hindered by factional infighting at Charles I's court in Oxford, where key decisions often ended in confused squabbling.

Key to the strength of the New Model was its highly religious outlook. Cromwell believed that military victory was the outcome of God's will. He wanted the army to "valiantly fight the Lord's battle" as "an army of saints". To that end, recruits were drilled using a book called *The Soldier's Catechism*. This instilled the troops with a sense of divine mission. One of the first questions in the book asked: "What are the principal things required of a soldier?" The answer was: "That he be religious and Godly." Additionally, the men were encouraged to be honest, principled, politically motivated and sober. They were fed propaganda that the

"CROMWELL'S TRAINING OF HIS 'IRONSIDES' CAVALRY REGIMENT MADE HIM STAND OUT AGAINST OTHER COMMANDERS, PARTICULARLY HIS ROYALIST COUNTERPARTS"



Left: Oliver Cromwell. MP for Cambridge and militant Puritan. Cromwell was chiefly responsible for the success of the New Model Army



Cromwell's Ironsides were instrumental in the Parliamentary victory at Marston Moor in 1644

THE ORIGINAL REDCOATS

Parliament's elite soldiers were the first to officially wear the uniform soon to be known the world over

MORION HELMET AND BREASTPLATE

These two items were designed for pikemen and were intended to be pistol proof. It was a different helmet, with the 'lobster pot' design, that became an iconic symbol of the Ironsides.

This pikeman officer is seen wearing a helmet similar to those famously used by the Spanish conquistadors

GUNPOWDER FLASKS

These wooden containers were designed for musketeers and were effectively a 'shot in a box'. Each flask contained a musket ball and enough gunpowder to fire one round. They were made of wood rather than paper both to protect the round and to speed up the loading time.

MATCHLOCK MUSKET

This was the standard firearm used by western European armies in the 17th century. They were clumsy and dangerous pieces of equipment with a very slow reloading time. Muskets were best used when fired in a volley.

The British redcoat is a legendary figure in military history, a symbol of the all-conquering power that helped create and maintain the British Empire. Though even today British soldiers wear red coats for ceremonial occasions, they originated in the fires of civil war.

During the early years of the British Civil Wars, specific regiments on both sides wore coloured uniforms. For example, on the Royalist side there were regiments of 'whitecoats' and 'bluecoats'. However, there were no specific colourings for whole armies, so individual soldiers usually wore their own clothes. During a battle, the opposing sides told each other apart by using 'field signs'. These could include coloured armbands or sprigs of wild plants pinned to hats. Of course, in the din and smoke of battle, it could be very difficult to tell apart comrades from enemies.

When the New Model was created, Oliver Cromwell concluded that the soldiers' equipment had to be standardised, as this would ease the logistical demands on campaigns – this included both weapons and clothing. Venetian Red was chosen as the colour of the official uniform as it was the cheapest dye available. This inexpensive quality fitted in well with the Puritan ethic of not appearing to be ostentatious, although as the centuries went by the redcoat would become associated with dashing swagger and swooning ladies. Indeed, the redcoats of the New Model Army would not have appeared in the plush scarlet that is associated with today's Trooping of the Colour, but a muddy brownish-red tone.

The introduction of the redcoat seems to have had a positive effect on the troops and promoted solidarity among its often low-born but capable soldiers. Cromwell himself was proud of the meritocratic red-coated army he created and famously declared: "I had rather a plain russet-coated captain that knows what he fights for and loves what he knows, than that which you call a gentlemen, and is nothing else. I honour a gentleman that is so indeed."

"THOUGH EVEN TODAY BRITISH SOLDIERS WEAR RED COATS FOR CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS, THEY ORIGINATED IN THE FIRES OF CIVIL WAR"

Charles I's personal baggage was captured at Naseby, and Cromwell later published his letters from the Irish Catholic Confederation



Royalists were the complete opposite in their behaviour, being described as arrogant, drunk and pretentious. This was an army that stood apart from others in that it was specifically designed to aid a modern political and religious movement. The term 'New Model' was apt – nothing like it had been seen before. The pious passions of its soldiers would be the deciding factor in the outcome of the Civil War.

Within months of its creation, parliament's army gained its first major victory at Naseby on 14 June 1645. This battle showed the difference in discipline between the Royalists and Parliamentarians. Fairfax was the overall commander, but it was Cromwell's Ironsides that again tipped the balance in parliament's favour. After breaking many of the Roundhead horsemen, Prince Rupert could not prevent his cavalry from breaking away from the main battle in order to attack the Parliamentary baggage train. This repeat blunder, reminiscent of Edgehill, contributed to the Royalist defeat. However, what was more essential to the Parliamentary victory was Cromwell's disciplined command of his cavalry. Forbidden to leave the battlefield, instead the Ironsides

"THIS WAS AN ARMY THAT STOOD APART FROM OTHERS IN THAT IT WAS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO AID A MODERN POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT. THE TERM 'NEW MODEL' WAS APT – NOTHING LIKE IT HAD BEEN SEEN BEFORE"

smashed the Royalist centre before Rupert's cavalry returned and then remained on the field to consolidate their position. When Rupert eventually rallied his troops to return to the battlefield, they refused to attack the Ironsides.

Naseby was a decisive triumph. Charles I's army was shattered and all its artillery and stores captured. The New Model Army's superiority was confirmed. Before Naseby, the Royalists had mockingly referred to parliament's reorganised army as 'The New Noddle'. Now they could no longer hope to win the war. Within a year, Charles surrendered and the First Civil War was won for parliament, thanks largely to the New Model Army.

However, parliament's victory did not end the conflict. In a sense, the New Model Army won

its spurs at Naseby, but it would face many more battles in the coming years, and it was these encounters that would confirm the New Model's reputation as the era's pre-eminent fighting force. After Charles I's surrender, there was an extended period where parliament, the army and the Scots struggled to reach an agreement on how to settle the kingdom. Although Charles was a prisoner, he was considered crucial to the proceedings. The king was unco-operative and secretly negotiated with the Scots to invade England on his behalf. This sparked another civil war and a Scottish army crossed the border in July 1648. After a month of skirmishes, Cromwell marched north to confront it. The two armies met outside Preston in mid-August.

WINNING TACTICS AT DUNBAR

A tired and hungry New Model Army triumphed against the odds with the help of daring leadership and some rousing hymn singing

The Battle of Dunbar was arguably Cromwell's greatest victory. He had invaded Scotland with a veteran army of 15,000 men (10,000 foot and 5,000 horse) to pre-empt an invasion of England by Charles II. His army was supplied from the sea on the east coast of Scotland as the Scots had adopted a scorched-earth policy between Edinburgh and

the border. By September 1650, the fatigued New Model Army started to retire to their supply base at Dunbar. However, the Scots got there first and blocked their path, positioning themselves on Doon Hill overlooking the Berwick road – the only route back to England.

The Scots were also numerically superior, some 22,000 men, and fighting on home territory. With some of his men suffering from illness, Cromwell was outnumbered almost two to one and with battle now the only option, even he acknowledged that the situation had turned desperate: "We are upon an engagement very difficult... the enemy hath blocked up our way... through which we cannot get without almost a miracle."

To add to Cromwell's misery, the Scots were commanded by David Leslie, a highly experienced soldier. Leslie and Cromwell had fought together at Marston Moor where the former had played an important part in the Parliamentary victory. However, on 2 September, under pressure from the Scottish Kirk and parliament to attack, Leslie moved down from his commanding position on Doon Hill and towards Dunbar town to launch an attack on the English encampment. Cromwell immediately saw this mistake and decided to meet the challenge the next day, 3 September.

Left: The Dunbar victory medal, showing Cromwell's bust, was given to Parliamentary soldiers that fought



Parliament's army had to fight a large Scottish force of nearly 20,000 men, commanded by the Duke of Hamilton. By contrast, Cromwell only had 9,000 troops, and of those just 6,500 were experienced soldiers. Despite this, Cromwell's force was much more disciplined than the Scots, who additionally were spread out over 20 miles around Preston. This meant Hamilton couldn't communicate properly with his troops. The Scottish commander had placed his cavalry in the vanguard, while his infantry was left trailing behind traversing over boggy ground, which hampered their speed.

Cromwell saw these advantages, and on 17 August, attacked the infantry in the rear of Hamilton's army. However, the boggy ground also restricted the New Model's movement, particularly as it was reliant on the Ironsides for success. This left a brutal and bloody struggle for control of Preston, as Cromwell's troops clashed with the Scottish infantry.

At the end of the day, the fighting had cost the Scots 8,000 killed or captured. One action at the Ribble Bridge had seen hard fighting lasting more than two hours, but the battle was

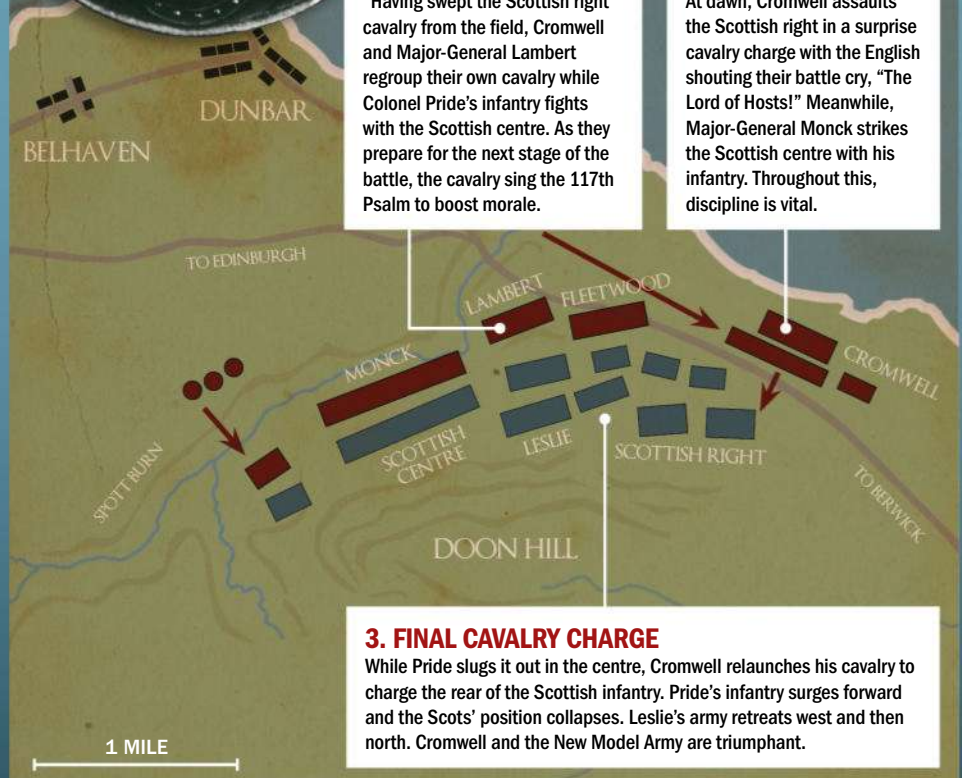


2. REGROUP WITH A SONG

Having swept the Scottish right cavalry from the field, Cromwell and Major-General Lambert regroup their own cavalry while Colonel Pride's infantry fights with the Scottish centre. As they prepare for the next stage of the battle, the cavalry sing the 117th Psalm to boost morale.

1. CROMWELL ATTACKS

At dawn, Cromwell assaults the Scottish right in a surprise cavalry charge with the English shouting their battle cry, "The Lord of Hosts!" Meanwhile, Major-General Monck strikes the Scottish centre with his infantry. Throughout this, discipline is vital.



3. FINAL CAVALRY CHARGE

While Pride slugs it out in the centre, Cromwell relaunches his cavalry to charge the rear of the Scottish infantry. Pride's infantry surges forward and the Scots' position collapses. Leslie's army retreats west and then north. Cromwell and the New Model Army are triumphant.

HISTORY OF THE REDCOATS

The Battle of Naseby was the first test of the New Model Army and was a decisive victory in the First English Civil War.

“ENGLAND WAS DECLARED A REPUBLICAN COMMONWEALTH WITH THE NEW MODEL ARMY ACTING AS THE ENFORCER OF THIS NEW STATE”



not yet won and it continued again the following day. Cromwell had to invest Preston with a strong garrison and guards for the large number of prisoners. He now only had 3,000 infantry and 2,500 cavalry to fight the remaining 10,000 Scottish troops. Luckily for the English, Hamilton was experiencing his own problems – his men were exhausted, lumbered with wet ammunition, and many of the hungriest had gone to Wigan to plunder food. This enabled Cromwell to continually harry the Scots as they fought a disorganised retreat. Despite making some determined stands at various passes and bridges, Hamilton's army could not withstand the disciplined onslaughts from the Ironsides, and eventually what was left of the troops offered their surrender.

Once again the New Model Army had flattened Royalist hopes of victory, and this time parliament no longer accommodated the king. He was put on trial for treason against his own people, found guilty and publicly beheaded in Whitehall on 30 January 1649. Cromwell was one of the signatories to his execution and England was declared a republican Commonwealth with the New Model Army acting as the enforcer of this new state. Fairfax resigned his army command in protest against the king's death and Cromwell became commander-in-chief of the army.

Many others were also outraged by Charles's execution, particularly the Royalists and the Scots who had not been consulted about their monarch's fate. This anger found an outlet in Ireland, where English Royalists formed an alliance with Irish Catholic Confederates and Ulster Scots against the Commonwealth. So, in March 1649, parliament commissioned Cromwell to invade Ireland with the New Model Army. Leaving nothing to chance, he made sure the men, including some 12,000 veterans, were fully paid and equipped before setting sail. His Irish campaign would be of a different nature to the ones that came before and after. Instead of decisive battles, the army would engage in a series of sieges that would whittle down Irish resistance.

For Cromwell, it would be a militarily brilliant campaign, but also one marred by controversy. His tactics centred around massive artillery bombardments of fortified towns and speedy marches to surprise neighbouring garrisons. To save time and men, he would issue generous surrender terms, but if the garrison refused to comply, he used shock tactics to persuade others that capitulation was the best option against the advancing force.

The most notorious of these incidents occurred at the Sieges of Drogheda and Wexford, though militarily both these were notable successes for Cromwell. At Drogheda, artillery was used to concentrate firepower into the breaches and Cromwell personally rallied his troops by leading them into the fray. Parliamentary casualties were low, numbering about 150 men. Similarly at Wexford, Cromwell skilfully manoeuvred around the port and approached it from the south. This took the garrison by surprise as they were expecting the army to approach from the north. The town was quickly taken and the army captured ships, artillery, ammunition and tons of supplies. Once again losses were very low with casualties of 20-30 men.

"WHAT TARNISHED THESE SUCCESSES WERE THE MASSACRES OF ENEMY SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS. DURING THE STORMING OF DROGHEDA, ABOUT 3-4,000 SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, MANY OF THEM IN COLD BLOOD"

What tarnished these successes were the massacres of enemy soldiers and civilians. During the storming of Drogheda, about 3-4,000 soldiers and civilians were killed, many of them in cold blood. Likewise at Wexford a similar number of Irish soldiers and civilians were dispatched. In both sieges, the massacres occurred when New Model troops went on a frenzied rampage after the towns were stormed. In 17th-century Europe atrocities such as this were tragically common.

However horrific the massacres were, they did serve a purpose. Many Irish towns subsequently surrendered to Cromwell out of fear, not just of the New Model's military prowess but also to prevent further loss of life. This saved Cromwell time and supplies in conducting drawn-out sieges. He also showed strategic foresight over the following winter

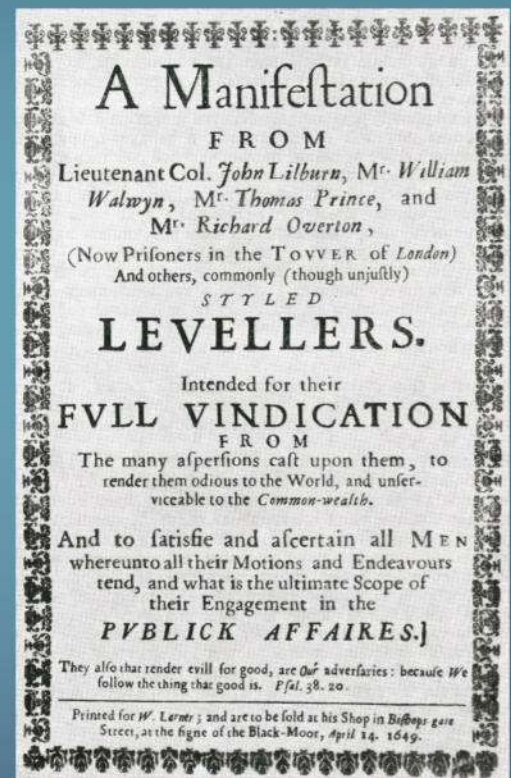
in 1649-50. The season was unusually mild and the army used this to procure supplies of fodder for its horses and draught animals. This allowed Cromwell to renew operations at the end of January 1650, rather than having to wait for the spring.

Despite the seemingly unstoppable force of the New Model Army in Ireland, it was also the only place where it suffered a serious beating. At the Siege of Clonmel in May 1650, Cromwell attempted his usual tactic of storming the town after an artillery bombardment. However, unknown to the army, the breach was internally surrounded with an enclosed area that was filled with Irish cannon and musketeers. Two assaults by New Model troops ended in disaster. On both occasions, the English became trapped and eventually 1,500-2,500 soldiers were killed. This was the New Model's

REVOLUTIONARY ARMS

The New Model was a hive of political dissent calling for democratic rights 150 years before the American and French Revolutions

The meritocratic nature of the army encouraged grassroots political activity that was unprecedented and strikingly forward thinking. Common soldiers known as 'Agitators' were elected in 1647 to demand unpaid wages from parliament, but when this was refused, they arrested the imprisoned Charles I to use him as a bargaining tool against the army 'Grandeess' such as Cromwell. By this time, Agitators were co-operating with Levellers – who believed in an extended franchise, individual rights enshrined in a written constitution and a government answerable to the people, not the king. Cromwell agreed to discuss the issues at the Putney Debates in October 1647, where many soldiers passionately argued for universal democratic rights. Colonel Rainsborough famously declared: "I think that the poorest he that is in England hath a life to live, as the greatest he. I think it's clear that every man that is to live under a government ought first by his own consent to put himself under that government." The Grandeess rejected many of these demands, which fuelled further discontent. In 1649, Leveller mutinies broke out in the army and were brutally crushed. The radical ideas that were espoused by the army rebels were never forgotten and heavily influenced later revolutions.



Above: A Leveller manifesto published in 1649. John Lilburne was an Ironside veteran of Marston Moor

HISTORY OF THE REDCOATS

first major setback and its greatest loss of life sustained in a single action. Nonetheless, the Irish had also suffered and abandoned the town having lost several hundred men.

Cromwell left Ireland soon afterwards but his remaining troops carried on the systematic conquest of the country, with the whole island eventually being subjugated.

After many negotiations, Charles II sailed to Scotland and was proclaimed king. This presented a genuine threat to the Commonwealth and Cromwell subsequently invaded Scotland to prevent a Scottish invasion into England. After the miraculous New Model victory at Dunbar in September 1650, the Royalist cause looked lost. Nonetheless, Charles II was crowned king of Scots on 1 January 1651, and later in the year he led a last-ditch invasion of England to regain his throne. This was against the advice of David

Leslie, the defeated commander at Dunbar. In August 1651, 14,000 Scottish troops crossed the border. Cromwell, who was still reducing Scotland, followed Charles and collected reinforcements as he proceeded south. The New Model Army caught up with the invading army at Worcester on 3 September. By this time, Cromwell's force numbered 28,000 regular troops and 3,000 militiamen. This was the first occasion when the New Model Army had overwhelming numerical superiority over the enemy and Cromwell was at the peak of his not-insignificant confidence.

The Battle of Worcester took place in a wide area around the city. Cromwell attempted to encircle Worcester in order to force Charles into a defensive position within its walls. However, to the south and south west of Worcester, the Rivers Severn and Teme blocked the army's advance. These would need to be crossed in

order to carry out the battle plan, so Cromwell began the fight by personally leading three brigades to attack the pontoon bridge on the River Teme. Once the north bank had been taken, the Scots collapsed back towards Worcester itself. While Cromwell was crossing the rivers, the east flank of his army was threatened when Charles II rallied his troops to sally out of the town and assault the New Model infantry. This surprise attack was initially successful and there was a moment when the entire east wing of the army almost collapsed. However, Cromwell came charging back from his position on the River Severn to bolster his troops. The return of his brigades turned the tide of the battle and the Royalists were thrown back into Worcester.

At this point, parliament's Essex militia stormed and captured Fort Royal, which was a defensive entrance into the city. Once the guns

Charles II was forced to flee after defeat at the Battle of Worcester



inside were taken, they were turned on the Royalists in the town itself. The final part of the battle then played out in fierce street fighting. Running skirmishes sparked out all over the city, and the Royalists eventually panicked and fled for their lives. Charles II was among those who fled, and after several legendary adventures in hiding, he eventually escaped to the continent.

The vast majority who followed him were not so lucky – 3,000 Scots were killed at Worcester and another 10,000 were taken prisoner, most of whom were transported to the colonies as indentured slaves. For the New Model Army, the Battle of Worcester was a triumph, as well as the last major battle of the Civil Wars. The Parliamentarians had only lost 200 men on the field, which in a strange irony had been among the first skirmishes of the Civil Wars back in 1642. Cromwell described Worcester as a “crowning mercy” and it was to be his final battle as an active commander. Nevertheless, the New Model would continue as the backbone of the Commonwealth throughout the 1650s, achieving

a last hurrah in the dying days of Cromwell's Protectorate, at the Battle of the Dunes.

Taking place on 14 June 1658, the Battle of the Dunes earned a victory for the combined Anglo-French army commanded by the Vicomte de Turenne against the Spanish. Cromwell had agreed to form an alliance with the French in order to put pressure on the exiled Charles II and acquire the Channel port of Dunkirk by diplomatic means. France was at war with Spain and Dunkirk itself was part of the Spanish Netherlands, which meant it would need to be taken by force. Turenne besieged Dunkirk with 15,000 troops, of which 3-4,000 were red-coated soldiers of the New Model Army. A Spanish force of 15,000 men was sent to relieve the town, about 2,000 of which were English Royalists led by the Duke of York, the future James II. The battle was a miniature replay of the Civil Wars re-created on a European stage.

The battle played out on coastal sand dunes that lay north east of Dunkirk. Turenne took the initiative and attacked the Spanish entrenched

in strong defensive positions among the dunes. English Major-General Thomas Morgan and Sir William Lockhart commanded the New Model contingent – it was Lockhart's Regiment of Foot that particularly distinguished itself. They astonished both the French and Spanish with the ferocity of their assaults against enemy positions. In particular, Lockhart's regiment launched a dramatic attack on a Spanish-held sand hill that was 150 feet high. The speed of the English attack took the hardened Spanish veterans defending the hill by surprise, and after a tough fight, the French came to support the English and the Spanish were driven away. Soon afterwards, the battle was decisively won for the Anglo-French army.

Dunkirk fell and was gifted to the English, but more importantly for the Protectorate, it also prevented the restoration of Charles II for another two years. The Battle of the Dunes demonstrated to the European powers that the New Model was one of the best fighting forces on the continent – one that would make England a power to be feared and respected.

The triumphant Vicomte de Turenne at the Battle of the Dunes

“THEY ASTONISHED BOTH THE FRENCH AND SPANISH WITH THE FEROCITY OF THEIR ASSAULTS AGAINST ENEMY POSITIONS”



THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

Despite being one of the most prestigious regiments that protect the royal family, the Coldstream Guards are ironically revolutionary in origin

When Oliver Cromwell died in 1658, he was succeeded by his ineffectual son, Richard. This created a power vacuum, with some in the army wanting to restore parliamentary power and others seeking to restore the monarchy. The commander of the army in Scotland, George Monck, wished to preserve the stability of England and so marched his force across the Anglo-Scottish border at the Coldstream River and occupied London in February 1660. Monck then entered into secret negotiations with Charles II while parliament was re-elected. The new assembly was overwhelmingly pro-Royalist and Charles was restored in May 1660. The New Model Army was ordered to disband in conjunction with the Indemnity and Oblivion Act, which sought to reverse the effects of the Civil Wars, and the king's new army would be created from scratch.

Monck's regiment was allowed to be the last New Model outfit to disband, however, in January 1661, it was required to suppress an insurrection in London and the order for disbandment was repealed. On 14 February 1661, the regiment took part in a symbolic ceremony. On Tower Hill, the soldiers publicly put down their weapons as a unit of the New Model Army, before immediately being ordered to pick them up again as soldiers of Charles II's army. For a regiment that was created by Oliver Cromwell in 1650, this was quite a shift in identity. From 1670, the unit became known as the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, in honour of the march that restored the monarchy. Today, the Coldstream Guards is the oldest regiment with continuous service in the British army and, along with the Blues and Royals, is the only unit that can directly trace its lineage to the New Model Army.



The Coldstream Guards were originally formed in 1650 by Oliver Cromwell to defend the Republican Commonwealth of England



**"THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS IS THE OLDEST REGIMENT
WITH CONTINUOUS SERVICE IN THE BRITISH ARMY"**

THE WAR RAGES ON

Prior to Naseby, the war between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians had been raging for three years. With neither side ever quite taking complete control of the conflict, there needed to be an encounter that decided the war before both sides ran out of steam. Naseby would be that battle.

GET IN LINE!

Both sides took different approaches to battle formations. The Royal Army incorporated three lines of musketeers in the centre with cavalry on the flanks. The Parliamentarians had two lines rather than three with musketeers out at the front.

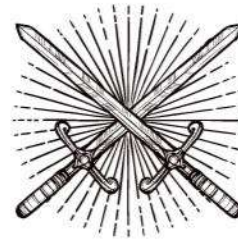
CAVALIERS

Lacking the discipline of their adversaries, the Royalist cavalry often attacked individual targets rather than staying in rank. Although they were fighting a Parliamentarian army, about half of the MPs fought for the king. In contrast to the Roundheads, they would often wear fancy clothes with long hair and beards.

LOBSTER POTS

Nicknamed 'lobster pots' or 'ironsides', the soldiers of the New Model Army were recognisable due to their metal helmets. They would traditionally cut their hair very short and wear plain clothes as well as a cuirass breastplate.





THE BATTLE OF NASEBY

VILLAGE OF NASEBY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
SATURDAY 14 JUNE 1645

Naseby may only be a tiny English village in the Midlands, but on the morning of 14 June, it played host to a pivotal battle in the English Civil War. The bloody nationwide conflict had been drawn out for more than three years, with neither side managing to assert any clear authority. The Parliamentary forces were now more determined than ever to finally bring down the Royalist cause, and on this day, the New Model Army, a modernised professional fighting force, would prove its supremacy.

The Roundheads' influential leader, Oliver Cromwell, was present but would not be leading his forces, so the task fell to the talented commander Thomas Fairfax. The Royalist army would be led by the king, Charles I, and supported by his loyal band of subjects.

As the clock ticked past 9am, battle began on the misty open fields of Northamptonshire. Overlooking the village from a ridge, the 12 regiments of the New Model Army made the first move and marched into Naseby. The opposing armies now lined up face to face, with the cavalry regiments on the flanks and the infantry occupying the centre ground. The Royalists had a German commander in their ranks, and it was Prince Rupert of the Rhine who began proceedings with a rapid cavalry charge through the fog after he spotted enemy dragoon movement on the battlefield's western edge. The charge crashed into the Roundhead ranks, sweeping aside the stunned Parliamentary horsemen, but instead of attacking the now exposed infantry, they pressed on to assault a baggage wagon in the centre of Naseby. Next came Charles's

infantry and remaining mounted units, who engaged in a full frontal assault on the reeling Parliamentarians. The sheer ferocity of the attack drove the Roundheads back but could not maintain its momentum, and the Royalists failed to strike a crippling blow as the Parliamentarians slowly but surely began to regroup.

Rupert's decision to concentrate on the baggage train was a timely reprieve for Fairfax, who responded by directing his mounted troops, led by Cromwell, to attack the opposing flank. This attack became a key part of the battle. Sir Marmaduke Langdale's Royalist troops wilted in the face of the rapid cavalry attack and the Royalist infantry were sucked into a perfectly executed pincer movement before completely breaking. If Langdale's flank had held out, the Royalists could have potentially recovered, but it wasn't to be. Charles and his forces were now wide open to attack left, right and centre. Surrender was not far away.

Prince Rupert returned from the baggage train soon after but was now too late to bail out his allies. As the dust settled, it became clear that the Royalists had lost the battle and more than 1,000 men had died in only three hours of fighting. In contrast, the ruthless New Model Army only recorded casualties of about 200 men. Many of the king's best officers lay dead and his artillery abandoned as the remaining Royalists fled the scene. The battle was a hammer blow to the king, and within a year, the final pockets of royal resistance were taken care of. Cromwell was now the undisputed leader of his country and the age of the Lord Protectors was begun.

FAIRFAX'S TACTICS

The New Model Army based its strategy around its lightly armed cavalry. Their attacks were built on speed and surprise and would aim for the flanks to avoid and outmanoeuvre the strong centre of the Royal Army.



The Royal Army

INFANTRY 6,000

CAVALRY 5,500



KING CHARLES I

LEADER

Dismissive of parliament's role in governing the country, Charles preferred absolute rule, which led to tension and eventually civil war.

Strengths Unshakable belief in his God-given right to rule.

Weakness Declining support base due to his actions while in power.



CAVALIER

KEY UNIT

The iconic mounted units were key to Charles's military strength.

Strengths Experience of a long and hard civil war.

Weakness Position was based on status, not fighting ability.



MATCHLOCK

KEY WEAPON

A type of musket, it was wielded by both the cavalry and infantry.

Strengths Power and range of shot.

Weakness Slow reload time and poor aim.

01 THE ROAD TO NASEBY

June 1645 and the civil war is reaching fever pitch. King Charles is persuaded to march from his stronghold in Oxford to relieve Chester, which is being besieged by Parliamentary forces. Away from the siege, the main crux of Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army is assembling and evading any confrontation as it moves north. This delay allows it to reach maximum strength on the road to Naseby.

02 LEAVING THE RIDGE

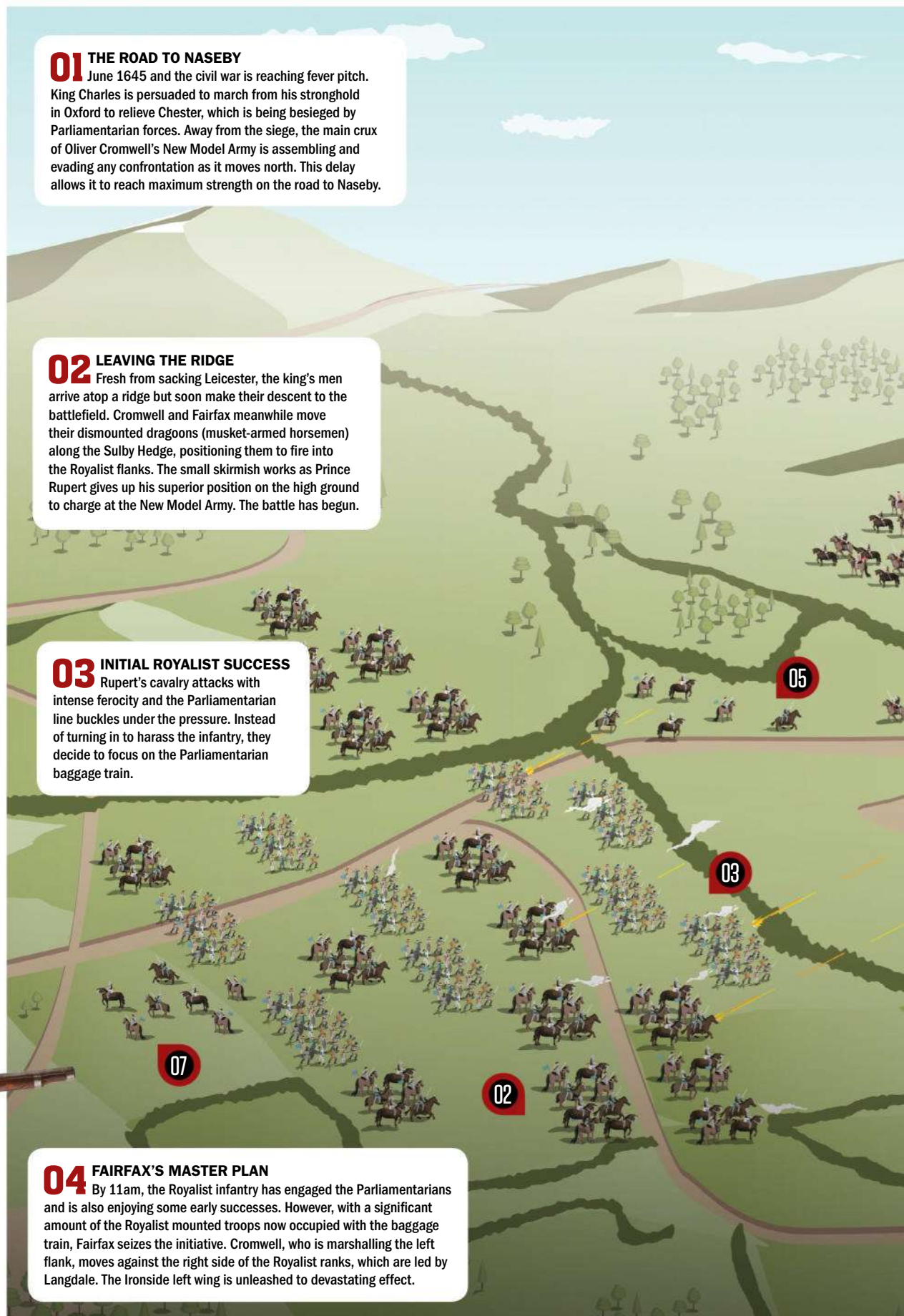
Fresh from sacking Leicester, the king's men arrive atop a ridge but soon make their descent to the battlefield. Cromwell and Fairfax meanwhile move their dismounted dragoons (musket-armed horsemen) along the Sulby Hedge, positioning them to fire into the Royalist flanks. The small skirmish works as Prince Rupert gives up his superior position on the high ground to charge at the New Model Army. The battle has begun.

03 INITIAL ROYALIST SUCCESS

Rupert's cavalry attacks with intense ferocity and the Parliamentary line buckles under the pressure. Instead of turning in to harass the infantry, they decide to focus on the Parliamentary baggage train.

04 FAIRFAX'S MASTER PLAN

By 11am, the Royalist infantry has engaged the Parliamentarians and is also enjoying some early successes. However, with a significant amount of the Royalist mounted troops now occupied with the baggage train, Fairfax seizes the initiative. Cromwell, who is marshalling the left flank, moves against the right side of the Royalist ranks, which are led by Langdale. The Ironside left wing is unleashed to devastating effect.





New Model Army

INFANTRY 7,000

CAVALRY 8,000



SIR THOMAS FAIRFAX

LEADER

Appointed captain general of the New Model Army in 1645, Fairfax ranked above Cromwell due to the rule of Self-denying Ordinance.

Strengths Long career in the Parliamentary Northern Army.

Weakness Naseby would be his first major engagement as captain general.



ROUNDHEAD DRAGOON

KEY UNIT

Led by Colonel John Okey, the dragoon units numbered at more than 1,000 strong.

Strengths Armour could deflect pistol fire and sword strokes.

Weakness Vulnerable to mounted cavalier attacks.



SABRE

KEY WEAPON

Firearms were often slow and inaccurate so cold steel still had a big part to play in the battles of the civil war.

Strengths Unmatched weapon at close quarters.

Weakness No defence against ranged attacks.

08 AFTERMATH

Naseby is a critical loss for the Royalists, who are chased down for 12 miles. Cromwell and Fairfax now have control of the jettisoned Royalist artillery and supplies. Charles and his supporters do not recover from this dire defeat and his military machine breaks completely at Oxford in 1646.

07 FLIGHT OF THE KING

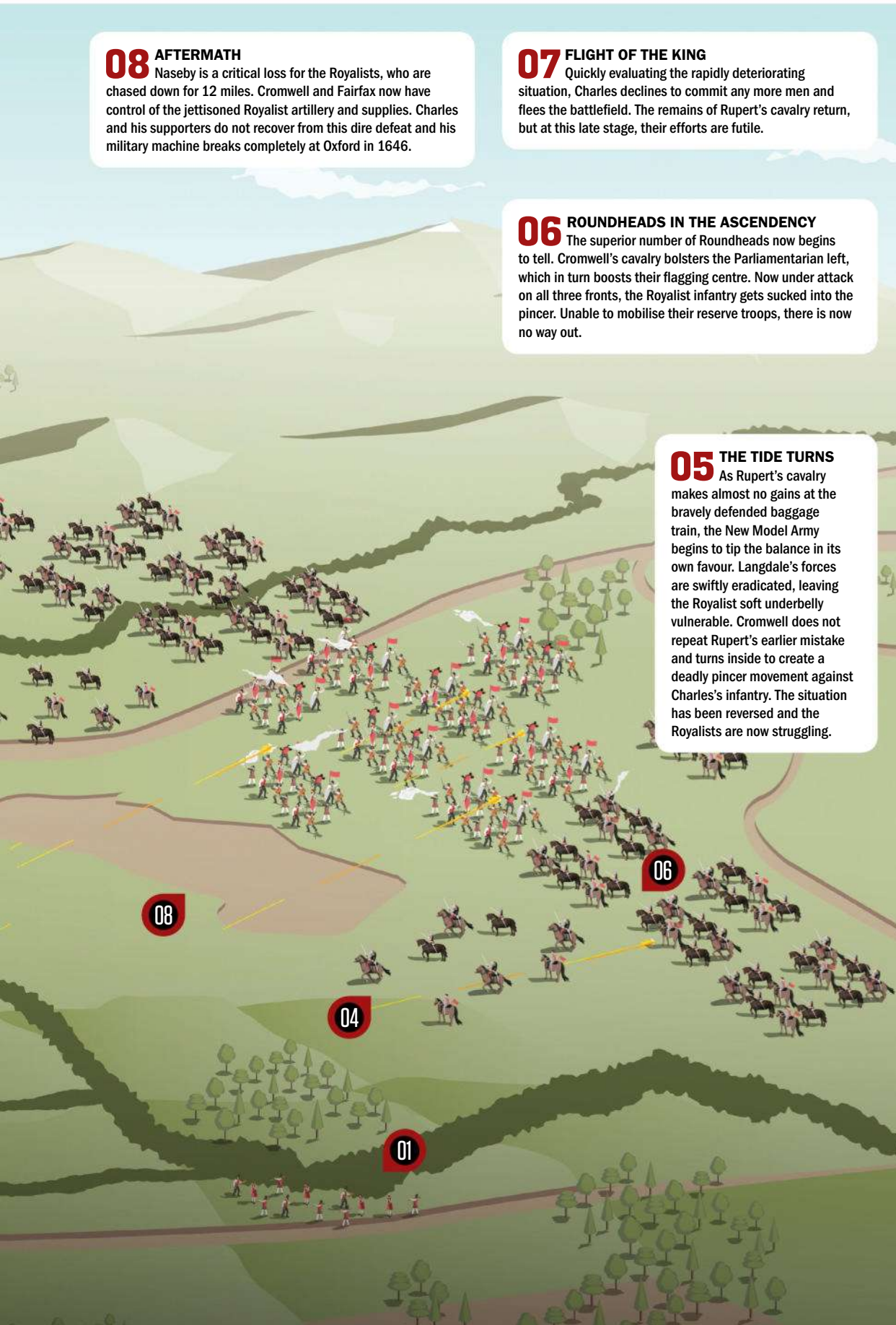
Quickly evaluating the rapidly deteriorating situation, Charles declines to commit any more men and flees the battlefield. The remains of Rupert's cavalry return, but at this late stage, their efforts are futile.

06 ROUNDHEADS IN THE ASCENDANCY

The superior number of Roundheads now begins to tell. Cromwell's cavalry bolsters the Parliamentary left, which in turn boosts their flagging centre. Now under attack on all three fronts, the Royalist infantry gets sucked into the pincer. Unable to mobilise their reserve troops, there is now no way out.

05 THE TIDE TURNS

As Rupert's cavalry makes almost no gains at the bravely defended baggage train, the New Model Army begins to tip the balance in its own favour. Langdale's forces are swiftly eradicated, leaving the Royalist soft underbelly vulnerable. Cromwell does not repeat Rupert's earlier mistake and turns inside to create a deadly pincer movement against Charles's infantry. The situation has been reversed and the Royalists are now struggling.



POWER AND PURPOSE

The New Model Army reached its zenith as a military and political organisation with the Interregnum but faded with the coming of the Restoration

The hammer of Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War, the New Model Army reached its zenith in combat prowess and political influence in the midst of the Interregnum as England was ruled in various amalgamations of republican government. This Parliamentary military force Cromwell had advocated and deployed as an instrument of decision on the battlefield remained a key element of the retention of power, if only for a fleeting period.

During the 1650s, elements of the New Model Army were active in Scotland, suppressing banditry and defeating minor uprisings among diehard Royalists. In England,

waves of unrest persisted. In particular, a secretive Royalist group dubbed the Sealed Knot, urged to act by the exiled King Charles II, attempted to restore the monarchy no fewer than eight times between 1652 and 1659.

Enemies foreign and domestic

The major foreign misadventure of the Protectorate followed a declaration of war against Spain in 1654 as elements of the New Model Army were deployed abortively to the Caribbean. The New Model Army also fought well in Flanders and impressed both its French allies and its Spanish foe at the Battle of the Dunes in 1658.

At home, the unwillingness of parliament to cooperate with Cromwell's agenda was distressing. Exercising the terms of the Instrument of Government, England's first written constitution, the Lord Protector called parliament into session on 3 September 1654. Cromwell and the Council of State had compiled a list of 84 measures to be considered and ratified. Parliament, though, seemed paralysed. Self-interests among its members and considerations of constituents superseded the desires of Cromwell and the council. Too few supporters could be mustered even to approve the Instrument of Government and allow its constitutional framework to be implemented. On 22 January 1655, Cromwell dissolved the First Protectorate Parliament, an abject failure, without any of the 84 provisions being approved.

Rule of the Major Generals

The string of Royalist uprisings and failure of the First Protectorate Parliament convinced Cromwell that working with civilian authorities was a fruitless endeavour. Further, the bitter disappointment of the Caribbean foray during the Anglo-Spanish War, he believed, was a punishment from God Almighty, imposed because of England's lack of progress toward reform. In response the Lord Protector summoned loyal military men and with their cooperation instituted a 15-month period of more or less direct rule under the New Model Army. In October 1655, a trusted group of officers was commissioned with the rank of major



FIRST PROTECTORATE PARLIAMENT FAILS

Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell dissolves the First Protectorate Parliament in frustration that none of his 84 bills are passed. The failure of the First Protectorate Parliament is a major influence in Cromwell's later decision to rest the legitimacy of his government on the strength of the New Model Army.

22 Jan 1655

Left: General George Monck, whose actions helped ensure the restoration of the English monarchy, argues for calling a new Free Parliament in 1660

Right: Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell lies on his deathbed. With Cromwell gone, the New Model Army assumed a larger role in shaping the political future of England

general. In short order, England was divided into 12 regions, each under the control of one of these officers who answered solely to Cromwell himself.

With its establishment, the Rule of the Major-Generals was, in effect, Cromwell's brand of martial law. The major generals were charged with suppressing civil unrest, dispersing unlawful assemblies, confiscating the weapons of suspected Royalists, and clamping down on rampant crime in the form of robbers and highwaymen who made travel about the country a risky undertaking. Raising local militias to implement their program, the major generals levied a ten per cent income tax, called the decimation tax, on the hapless Royalists in their regions.

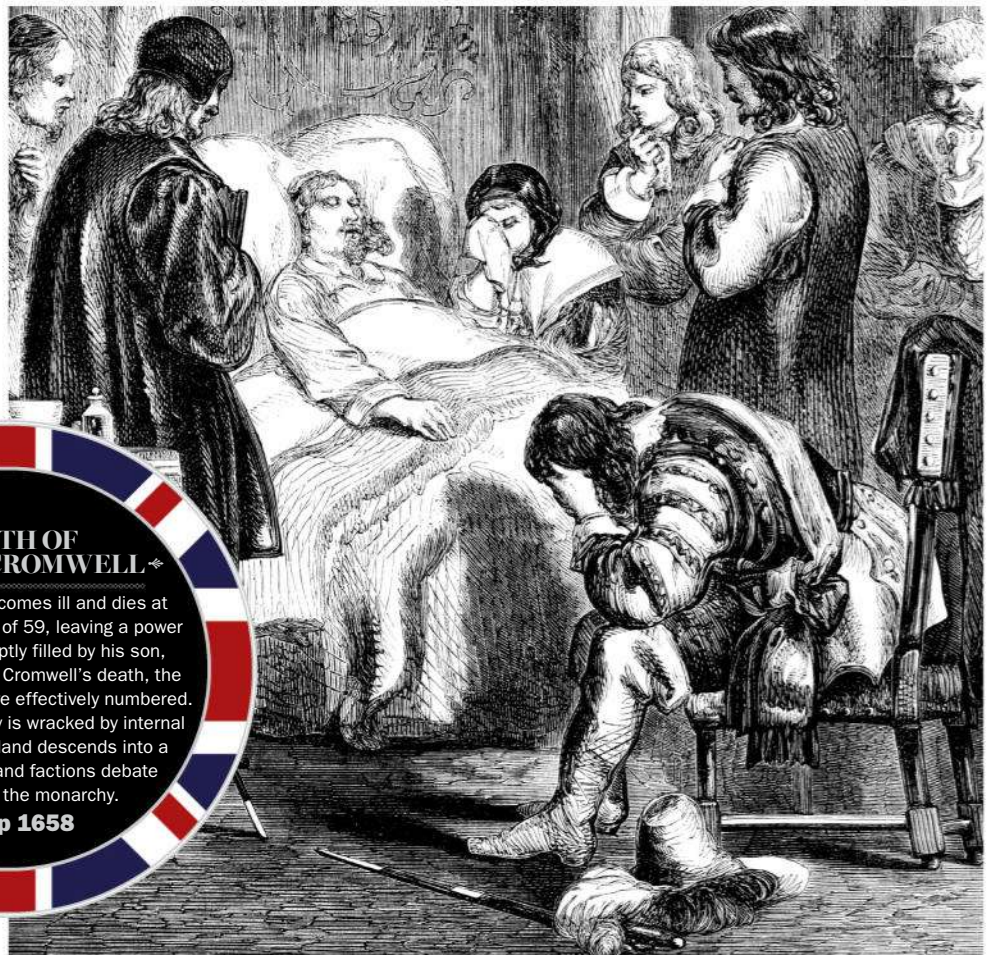
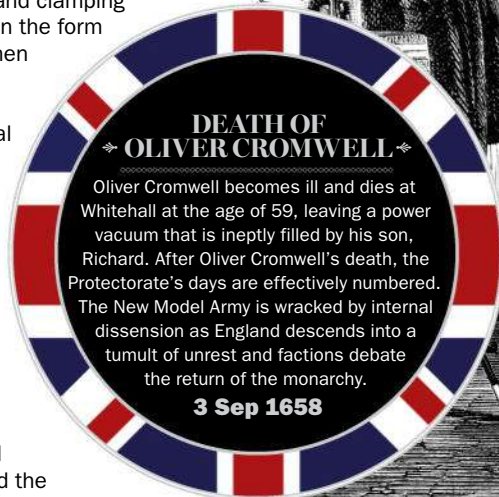
The imposition of moral standards followed suit. Laws were passed regulating sexual activity, drunkenness and the consumption of alcohol, unsavoury language and blasphemy, and conduct that was perceived inappropriate. Diversions such as the theatre, cockfighting, and horse racing were curbed, and public houses where the patrons were deemed unruly were shut down.

By the summer of 1656, the Army leaders attempted to influence the election of the Second Protectorate Parliament in order to ensure that the decimation tax would become a permanent source of revenue and the Rule of the Major-Generals would be reauthorised. However, the military government had become so unpopular that in its first session parliament overwhelmingly voted down these measures. Evidence suggests that Cromwell was so keenly aware of the peoples' displeasure with the police state that he declined to intervene on behalf of the major generals.

In the spring of 1657, the Humble Petition and Advice was ratified. Several factors influenced the adoption of this second English constitution. Cromwell's health was failing. He had become frustrated by a lack of revolutionary fervour among the people. The heavy-handed Rule of the Major Generals had nurtured a strong desire in parliament to reduce the emphasis on the military that had thus far characterised the Protectorate. Perhaps most disheartening of all, a group of supporters that came to be known as the New Cromwellians seemed to be favouring a return of the monarchy, its powers constitutionally curtailed of course, while parliament would retain authority to levy taxes.

Death and new direction

On 25 May 1657, Cromwell approved a modified version of the Humble Petition and



REQUIEM FOR RICHARD

Historians are divided as to the nature of Richard Cromwell's accession to the post of Lord Protector after the death of his father, Oliver. Some say that he was nominated on 30 August 1658, just four days before his father expired, while others contend that Oliver Cromwell actually wished to nominate his son-in-law, Charles Fleetwood, or that he died without naming a successor. Regardless of the circumstances, Richard's brief term lasted only 264 days. When he realised that his situation was untenable, he delivered a formal letter of resignation on 25 May 1659, after assurances that the Rump Parliament would authorise the payment of his debts and provide a pension for

his later financial support. By that time, he had declined an offer of military support from the French government, although he may have actually been under house arrest at the time.

The butt of cruel Royalist humour, Richard was referred to derisively as 'Queen Dick' or 'Tumbledown Dick'. Rumours circulated during the winter of 1659 that he would be reinstated as Lord Protector, but they proved false. The following summer he voluntarily went into exile in France and travelled extensively across Europe, never seeing his wife, Dorothy Maijor, again. Sometime around 1680, he returned to England and resided in the home of a merchant in Cheshunt. He died without heirs at the age of 85 on 12 July 1712.



Richard Cromwell was one of only two men of common birth to become English head of state. The other was his revolutionary father, Oliver

HISTORY OF THE REDCOATS

Advice and assured parliament that he would eventually nominate his successor as Lord Protector. The following summer, he became gravely ill, probably due to recurring bouts of malaria and renal failure. His condition rapidly worsened, and he died on 3 September 1658. Some conjecture surrounds the rise of the second Lord Protector, Cromwell's own son Richard.

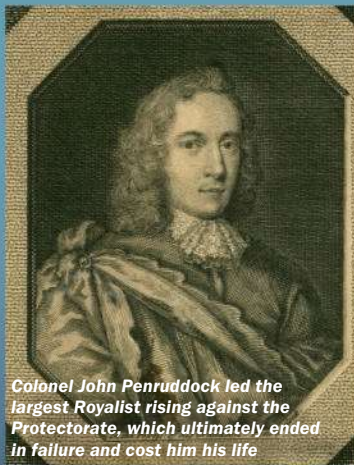
In the absence of Oliver Cromwell's forceful personality, the leaders of the New Model Army teetered on the brink of going to war among themselves. Divergent perspectives on the continuation of the Protectorate and the restoration of the monarchy emerged. Opponents within the Army questioned Richard's capacity to serve since he had no military experience. Complicating matters, the government was saddled with crippling debt and unable to effectively control the proceedings of the Third Protectorate Parliament, which convened in January 1659, primarily to address the looming financial crisis.

Senior officers of the New Model Army also expressed concerns that Parliament had displayed a significant lack of respect for its contributions and its status. They feared financial cuts that would threaten the Army's effectiveness and expressed their concerns in a letter to Richard Cromwell in April 1659. When the Lord Protector informed parliament of the New Model Army's grievances, the body essentially ignored the warning. On 18 April 1659, parliament heaped further insult on the military with a resolution that no further meetings of army leaders would take place without the consent of both Cromwell and parliament.

Officers were further prodded to take an oath not to disrupt parliament by force of arms. Perhaps the most egregious affront to the New Model Army's was the levelling of charges against William Boteler, a major general who supposedly had severely mistreated a Royalist prisoner in 1655.

PENRUDDOCK UPRISING

The Sealed Knot's most serious challenge to the Protectorate government occurred in the spring of 1655 with the Penruddock Uprising, named after Colonel John Penruddock, one of its leaders. Plans included the fomenting of a general uprising with the occupation of Salisbury, Newcastle, York, and Windsor, while secondary actions would erupt in Cheshire and Nottinghamshire. When the New Model Army garrison was reinforced in Winchester, the plot there was dropped. Not a single Royalist rallied to the cause in Cheshire. Undeterred, on 11 March, Penruddock and more than 300 Cavaliers occupied Salisbury. The following day they marched westward, hoping to attract more soldiers as they passed through the villages of Blandford, Sherborne and Yeovil. The results, however, were disappointing as only a few flocked to the Royalist standard. Three days later, the Royalists had reached South Molton in Devon. There, the plot of the Sealed Knot was undone when they were confronted by a single horse troop of the New Model Army led by Captain Unton Crook. Fighting erupted in the village streets, and within three hours the insurgency was utterly defeated. Those Royalists who were not killed or captured fled into the countryside. Their leaders were taken into custody and put on trial on 18 April 1655. Convicted of high treason, Penruddock and nine other conspirators were beheaded at Exeter in May. While some participants in the uprising were acquitted or pardoned, at least 70 were jailed in Salisbury for lengthy periods and then shipped to Barbados to perform hard labour as indentured servants purchased by landowners on the Caribbean island.



Colonel John Penruddock led the largest Royalist rising against the Protectorate, which ultimately ended in failure and cost him his life

“WITH THE RESTORATION OF CHARLES II, THE NEW MODEL ARMY WAS DISBANDED, HAVING COMPLETED AN IRONICALLY CIRCULAR CAREER, FORMED TO TOPPLE THE MONARCHY AND SUBSEQUENTLY INSTRUMENTAL IN ITS RETURN”

THE NEW MODEL ARMY MARCHES

ANGLO-SPANISH WAR EARLY 1654

An ongoing rivalry with Imperial Spain, stemming primarily from commercial opportunities in gold and sugar trading, leads to open hostilities. Although the New Model Army fights well on the European continent, an expedition to the Caribbean falters.

RULE OF THE MAJOR GENERALS 11 OCTOBER 1655

Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell commissions 12 senior officers of the New Model Army to enact a 15-month period of harsh military control, effectively martial law, that is known as the Rule of the Major-Generals.

PARLIAMENT CHARGES WILLIAM BOTELER 12 APRIL 1659

In an affront to the New Model Army, Parliament charges one of its officers with mistreatment of a Royalist prisoner in 1655 during the Rule of the Major Generals, an action that exacerbates a growing rift.

PENRUDDOCK UPRISING 11 MARCH 1655

Spurred by the secretive Royalist group known as the Sealed Knot, John Penruddock leads one of numerous abortive coup attempts against Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate. A cavalry troop of the New Model Army thwarts the effort.

NEW MODEL ARMY PETITION 6 APRIL 1659

Fearful that Parliament will slash its funding and certain of its lack of respect for their contributions, leaders of the New Model Army petition Lord Protector Richard Cromwell to dissolve the body. Parliament ignores Richard's warning.

The animosity between the New Model Army and parliament reached a crescendo within days, and Richard Cromwell was unable to exert sufficient authority to prevent his own downfall. A group of senior army officers convened at the home of Parliamentarian leader Charles Fleetwood, and this so-called 'Wallingford House Party' ended the despised Third Protectorate Parliament on 23 April by locking the doors of its assembly rooms. The Rump Parliament was recalled two weeks later, and after it agreed to pay his debts, Richard Cromwell resigned the office of Lord Protector.

Meanwhile, a growing number of New Model Army generals feared a descent of the destabilised country into chaos. The only option remaining, they believed, was the restoration of King Charles II to the throne. Chief among these officers, General George Monck led his troops from garrison posts in Scotland to London and then presided over the return of the King, who entered the capital city on 29 May 1660. His coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on 23 April 1661.

With the restoration of Charles II, the New Model Army was disbanded, having completed an ironically circular career, formed to topple the monarchy and subsequently instrumental in its return. Charles II then laid the foundation of the future British Army, seeking to establish a smaller standing force that included veteran regiments of the New Model Army as well as Royalist regiments. Even greater change was to come during the reign of his successor, James II.



"THE NEW CROMWELLIANS SEEMED TO BE FAVOURING A RETURN OF THE MONARCHY, ITS POWERS CONSTITUTIONALLY CURTAILED"

Right: Oliver Cromwell used the New Model Army to assert his authority during a 15-month period known as the Rule of the Major Generals

THE WALLINGFORD HOUSE PARTY ACTS 23 APRIL 1659

After meeting at the home of Charles Fleetwood, senior New Model Army officers close the Third Protectorate Parliament, locking the doors to its assembly rooms. A committee of safety and council of state are later appointed.

RICHARD CROMWELL RESIGNS 25 MAY 1659

Unable to control the swirl of events that has further weakened his position as Lord Protector, Richard Cromwell resigns and later leaves England for France. His resignation paves the way for the restoration of the monarchy.



THE NEW MODEL ARMY DISSOLVES **AUGUST 1660**

Following the Restoration of Charles II, the New Model Army is substantially dissolved with the exception of several regiments that are to be incorporated with Royalist troops to form a smaller standing army.

MONCK MARCHES TO LONDON **2 JANUARY 1660**

George Monck, the 1st Duke of Albemarle, marches his contingent of the New Model Army from Scotland to London, subduing dissenting elements of the Army along the way. Monck maintains order during the Restoration.

THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES

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Meet some of the British Army's most gifted commanders

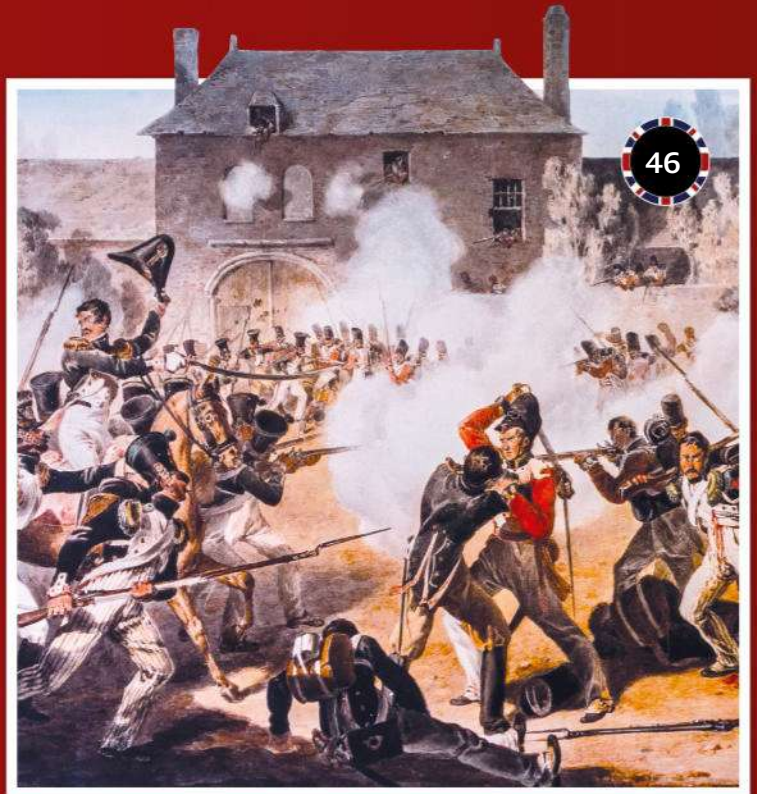
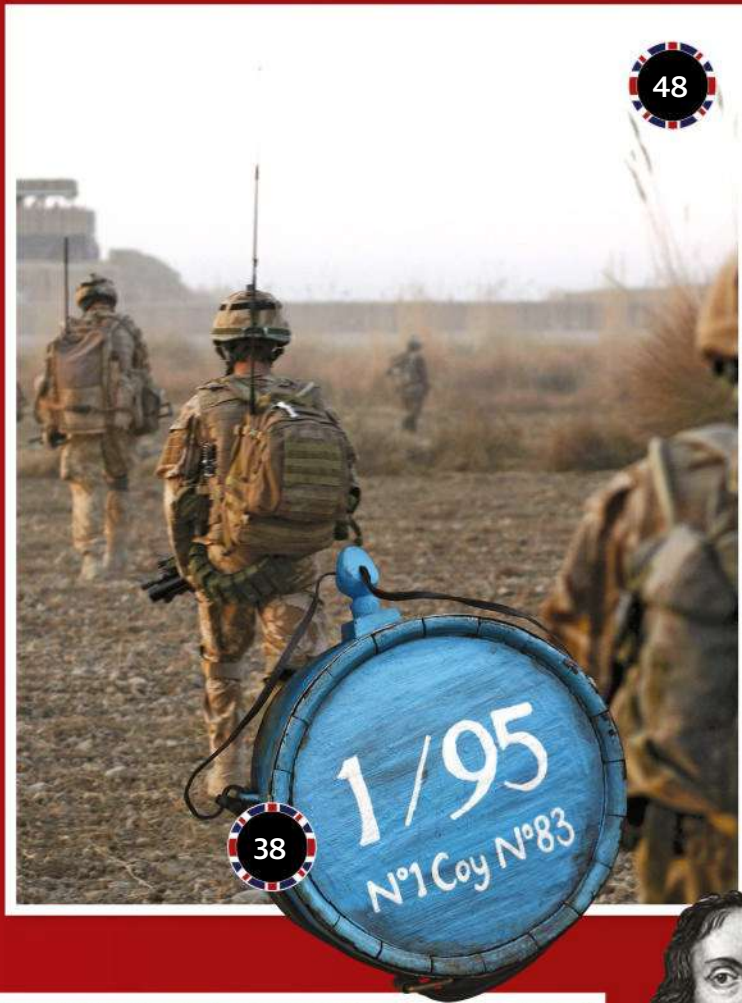
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The historical importance of the Coldstream Guards





ONCE AND FUTURE FIGHTING FORCE

The strength of the British Army ebbed and flowed from the Restoration through the Glorious Revolution and the reign of William and Mary

In the days that followed the Restoration, King Charles II walked a political and military tightrope. The New Model Army, a creation of the Long Parliament and bludgeon of Oliver Cromwell, had ironically played a key role in the monarch's return to England and ascent to the throne.

Now, in the midst of reorganisation Charles realised that the standing army remained a potential threat, as well as a possible affront to the people who remembered the oppression of the Rule of the Major Generals and the earlier 11 Years' Tyranny under his father, the late

Charles I. A standing army might work in the new king's favour or contribute to continuing instability across the realm.

Shrewdly, Charles II took action that seemed to solve the dilemma of a standing army being used as an enforcer of a potentially heavy-handed monarch that might diminish or altogether extinguish the authority of parliament.

In 1660, Charles dissolved the New Model Army in favour of a small standing army that would number no more than 5,000 soldiers at its inception. This reinvention,

for obvious political reasons, encompassed Royalist regiments and elements of the New Model Army. Its two corps would include the Royalist Life Guards and Oxford Blues cavalry regiments, the latter with many of the finest horsemen from the New Model Army. Infantry regiments included the Grenadier Guards, a Royalist formation, the Coldstream Guards of the New Model Army led by General George Monck who had facilitated the Restoration of the monarchy, Royal Scots, and the Second Queen's Royals, raised in 1661.

While Charles II had succeeded in establishing a standing army in the midst of popular sentiment that was yet to be convinced that such an entity could be anything but oppressive, the English Army was by no means of sufficient strength to impose the King's will upon the people through force. Parliament remained a viable entity, effectively curbing the once absolute power of the monarch.

Catholicism and conflict

When James II, brother of Charles, acceded to the throne in 1685, his Roman Catholicism became a serious concern in Parliament. Through a series of civil actions, James II appeared to be empowering Catholics at the expense of the Protestant establishment, while the birth of his son, James Francis Edward, threatened the entrenchment of a line of Catholic monarchs.

In the meantime, the English Army remained a key player in the swirl of political manoeuvring. Knowing that he could not fully rely on the support of the Army, James II began to appoint Catholics to key command posts within it, hoping to engender the loyalty needed to crush internal dissent.

Monmouth's misadventure

That dissent erupted in open rebellion in the summer of 1685 when James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, the oldest illegitimate son of Charles II and a Protestant, staked claim to



Left: William of Orange lands in England on 5 November 1688. He became King in 1689, ruling Britain alongside his wife Queen Mary II after James II fled to France

the English throne and led an uprising against his uncle James II. The so-called Monmouth Rebellion was short-lived and unsuccessful. James's army was better trained and equipped and handily defeated the rebels at the Battle of Sedgemoor on 6 July. Monmouth was arrested two days after the defeat and beheaded on Tower Hill on 15 July 1685.

The Monmouth Rebellion is significant not only in its outright challenge to the crown, but also in its impact on the English Army. The rebellion actually facilitated James's effort to strengthen the force. Ostensibly to put down the rebellion, the King raised nine new infantry and seven new cavalry regiments. While it was not unusual to do so in response to such a threat, James retained these additional regiments after the immediate crisis had passed.

Protestant observers were alarmed. Had James II amassed an army with enough strength and a loyal leadership that might challenge parliament? Although its strength had risen to 20,000, the king was under no illusion that its loyalty ran long and deep enough for such a consolidation of power, and no attempt was made.

In 1688, James II ordered the arrest of seven bishops of the Church of England, including the powerful Archbishop of Canterbury, who opposed his policies of toleration for Catholics. The bishops were tried and acquitted of any crime against the crown. The decision was greeted by the English people with general rejoicing, and the true weakness of the king's position was revealed. Then, the birth of the potential heir brought an appeal from the disaffected people to the Dutch Prince William of Orange, husband of James's daughter, Mary, both of whom were Protestant.

Whither William?

On 30 June 1688, Protestant noblemen formally extended an invitation to William of Orange to intervene in the internal affairs of England and depose James II in order to rescue the country from "popery and slavery." In a calculated response that had been conditioned on the "invitation" to invade, William landed at Brixham in the southwest of England on 5 November 1688. His army numbered 15,000, with 11,000 foot soldiers and 4,000 cavalry. As news of his landing spread, Protestant officers and troops of James's army began to defect to the invaders. His daughter, Princess Anne, did as well.

Although the English Army was well-equipped and retained numbers in excess of 45,000 including contingents of the Scottish and Irish armies, James apparently lost his nerve. He could not rely on the loyalty of his forces and feared that they might even turn on him or defect en masse. He was allowed to "escape" to France after the largely symbolic gesture of disbanding the English Army in December

STRENGTH AND STRUCTURE

Under William III, the English Army maintained establishments in England, Scotland, and Ireland. In December 1697, Parliament followed through with its intent to reduce the number of men at arms among these establishments, not only to keep the power of the monarch in check, but also to reduce the costs associated with a large armed force. England, it mandated, would sustain only 7,000 troops, Scotland fewer than 5,000, and Ireland about 12,000. In early 1699, the combined strength of the English Army included roughly four troops of horse guard and horse grenadier guard, 16 cavalry or dragoon regiments, and 32 regiments of foot soldiers.

While a troop of the horse guard numbered about 180 under the command of a member of the nobility, cavalry regiments were organised with a colonel commanding and 18 other officers including a lieutenant colonel, major and three captains with at least 216 mounted privates ordered in six troops. A colonel commanded each regiment of foot, which included nearly 400 privates in 11 companies. A lieutenant colonel, major, chaplain, eight captains, 12 lieutenants, and ten ensigns were among the additional foot officers, while 22 sergeants, 22 corporals, and 11 drummers maintained order in the ranks. The Royal

Foot, a component of the Irish establishment in 1699, was approximately double the size of other infantry regiments. Commanded by Colonel George Hamilton, Earl of Orkney, its 22 companies included 792 privates, 44 corporals, 44 sergeants, 20 ensigns, 24 lieutenants, 19 captains, a chaplain, major, lieutenant colonel, and 22 drummers.

Along with reductions in its own troops, parliament released approximately 23,000 troops from other countries, mercenaries who had been hired to serve the crown.



William of Orange confers with the Elector of Bavaria at Namur. During the Nine Years War, the English Army gained much experience and professionalism



Above: 'Charles I Insulted by Cromwell's Soldiers' (Hippolyte Delaroche, 1836)



1688. The virtually bloodless events of these tumultuous months came to be known as the Glorious Revolution.

After considerable negotiation, parliament declared the throne open with the view that James II had abdicated.

Along with an offer to reign jointly as William III and Mary II, parliament attached a Bill of Rights. Among other things it barred Catholics from the throne and abolished the existence of a standing army when the country was not at war. Given the times, the latter provision became difficult to enforce. Subsequently, the first of a series of Mutiny Acts was passed in 1689. Its premises were to establish a system of discipline within a standing army and to curb the power of the crown to control the army through the imposition of martial law. It was

THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES

intended to be in force for only one year, but to this day the modern British Army requires parliament's annual passage of an Order in Council to continue operating.

The English Army that William III inherited had been substantially weakened, although he immediately deployed regiments to fight in the Nine Years' War on the continent. The king embarked on a systematic enlargement of the army, which reached approximately 60,000 by late 1689, including 17 new regiments and the incorporation of his original army into its ranks. William personally led an army to Ireland in 1690, handily defeating a force raised by James II at the Battle of the Boyne. In 1694, William began raising another eight cavalry and 12 infantry regiments.

The unrest in Ireland, continuing conflict on the continent, and operations in alliance with the Dutch military gave rise to a more thoroughly and professionally trained English Army and bolstered the argument that a standing army was necessary for national security and prestige and the preservation of the monarchy against external threats from other European powers. With the end of the Nine Years' War in 1697, the army's strength hovered around 100,000, including Scottish and Irish elements.

Although it was impossible to return to the earlier condition of a small standing army augmented by local militia, the sentiment of the people and the will of parliament prevailed. Subsequent peacetime reductions limited the total strength of the Army to approximately 30,000; however, soon enough another mobilisation would swell its ranks during the War of the Spanish Succession.



EVOLUTION OF AN ARMY

JAMES II ACCEDES TO THE THRONE 6 FEBRUARY 1685

King James II accedes to the English throne, succeeding his brother, Charles II. James, a Roman Catholic, strengthens the Army for security reasons, such as crushing the Monmouth Rebellion, but never fully gains its loyalty.

THE PRICE OF FAILED INSURRECTION 15 JULY 1685

James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, leader of the failed uprising against King James II, is beheaded on Tower Hill. Monmouth had raised a force that proved no match for the king's well-trained and equipped army.

BIRTH OF THE PRETENDER 10 JUNE 1688

James Francis Edward, Catholic heir to the English throne ahead of his Protestant half-sister Mary, is born to James II and Queen Consort Mary of Modena. The birth raises significant alarm among the Protestant element in England.

INVITATION TO INTERVENE 30 JUNE 1688

Three weeks after the birth of James Francis Edward, a group of Protestant English noblemen invite William of Orange to invade England and claim the throne along with James II's Protestant daughter, Mary.

A PHANTOM DISSOLUTION 11 DECEMBER 1688

Before attempting to flee from England the first time, James II takes time to dissolve the English Army, an empty gesture relating to the armed force over which he has never fully held sway.

ACTS OF UNION

When the respective parliaments of England and Scotland passed the Acts of Union in 1706 and 1707, the two nations, although they had been ruled by a single monarch for a century, were joined and "United into One Kingdom by the Name of Great Britain."

The government from that time would include a single parliament, and among those tradition-bound institutions that would necessarily combine, the British Army emerged.

The seniority of regiments from England, Scotland, and Ireland in the new army was determined based on the particular regiment's incorporation into the English establishment or its entrance into England. As early as 1694, a board of general officers met to discuss the hierarchy of units that were then fighting during the Nine Years' War.

The example of the famed Scots Greys, later to cover themselves in glory at Waterloo, illustrates the process. Although its origin dated to 1678, the regiment was not placed in the English establishment for another decade. Therefore, the Scots Greys were designated the 4th Dragoons under the arrangement since three English dragoon regiments were already in the English establishment prior to the Scots Greys. In 1713, something of a redress occurred, and the Scots Greys' seniority was based on the regiment's entry into England in 1685. In that case, the regiment was predated by only a single English regiment, and it was renamed the 2nd Dragoons of the British Army.



The Scots Greys charge at Waterloo. Their placement in the British regimental hierarchy a century earlier brought formal designation as the 2nd Dragoons

Left: King James II is depicted circa 1685 wearing the red coat and uniform of a general officer and leader of the English Army

Right: Following his death in 1685, King Charles II was succeeded by his brother James II, a Roman Catholic

"WITH THE END OF THE NINE YEARS' WAR IN 1697, THE ARMY'S STRENGTH HOVERED AROUND 100,000"



END OF THE NINE YEARS' WAR

The Nine Years War ends with the Treaty of Ryswick. William III has dispatched English troops to fight with the Grand Alliance, and they have matured in organisational and combat skill. The English soldiers experience continental combat under the Dutch administrative command. The experience contributes to the emergence of a professional English Army.

20 Sep 1697

FIRST MUTINY ACT MARCH 1689

Parliament passes the First Mutiny Act, limiting the monarch's control of the army and establishing a justice system within the military. Also accepting the Bill of Rights, William III and Mary II are crowned in April.

BATTLE OF THE BOYNE 1 JULY 1690

After substantially strengthening the English Army, King William III leads a contingent against the army of James II in Ireland. The Battle of the Boyne is a decisive victory for William, ending James's bid to return to England.

REMAKING THE ARMY 1 MAY 1707

The Acts of Union become effective, and the amalgamation of the British Army follows as units with storied and glorious histories assume their places in the revised military establishment based on accepted criteria.

REDUCTION IN FORCE DECEMBER 1697

Harboring continuing concerns that the unchecked growth and maintenance of a standing army may threaten the freedom of the people and the existence of parliament, the English Army is substantially reduced in size.

BRITISH ARMY EQUIPMENT

Between 1808-14, British soldiers were laden with a wide range of weapons and equipment that enabled them to perform their duties to deadly effect

During the Peninsular War, the British soldier had much to contend with: fighting the French, rampant disease and the harsh rigours of the Iberian climate. In order to help him cope and survive, he was given weapons and equipment that would seem highly impracticable, heavy and cumbersome today. Nonetheless, their individual virtues all helped to secure victory in the Peninsula, although the soldier would have considered himself lucky not to receive wounds that required surgery.

BROWN BESS MUSKET

A 'Brown Bess' was the standard weapon for a British infantryman. Between 1793-1815, around 3 million were produced and variants of the musket had been in use since the early 1740s. This particular model is known as the 'India Pattern', which was cheap and simple to manufacture.

'FLASH IN THE PAN'

The flintlock mechanism had a 'swan neck' design, with the cocking device set in the right side of the gun body. When triggered this ignited the gunpowder in the open pan.

CHAMBER

The Brown Bess was a large firearm and its firing chamber reflected its size. They had to be designed to hold a .705 or .72 calibre ball. For their day these were huge cartridges.

BARREL

With a 99-centimetre barrel, the 'India Pattern' was 7.5 centimetres shorter than previous models but its calibre was 1.9 centimetres. This meant the musket could be loaded with captured enemy ammunition.

INFANTRY HAVERSACK

This practical rucksack carried all of the soldier's essential needs such as clothes and toiletries. Soldiers had to carry the standard clothing ration of shirts, stockings, one pair of shoes, spare soles and heels, trousers, a greatcoat and sleeping blanket.

Washing equipment included brushes, soap, razors and a mess tin.

DRINKING CANTEN

An essential part of a soldier's kit was his canteen of drinking water. Known as an 'Italian' canteen, more than 200,000 were manufactured between 1793-1803 and they were made out of wood or tin. They were painted blue and came with a 1.7-metre-long leather strap.

Below: Canteens were sometimes given regimental markings and the wooden design continued to be used by the British Army until 1871

Right: A full haversack could weigh up to 36 kilograms and its relatively compact size meant that the average soldier did not have much room for personal items

Below: This type of pistol was used by the King's German Legion, a Hanoverian regiment that fought in the British Army

FLINTLOCK PISTOL

All British cavalrymen were required to carry pistols, even though they had an extremely short range and were highly inaccurate. If a pistol were loaded with too much gunpowder, it was liable to blow itself out of the wielder's hand when fired.

CAMP KETTLE

Life for soldiers was undoubtedly hard but a few could afford some home comforts. Hot food and drinks were important on arduous campaigns and this kettle had an in-built spirit lamp to boil water. Its complex design suggests that it would have belonged to an officer.

Right: Tin kettles were introduced during the Peninsular War to replace iron ones. This lightened the kettle's weight and reduced boiling and cooking time



"IF A PISTOL WERE LOADED WITH TOO MUCH GUNPOWDER, IT WAS LIABLE TO BLOW ITSELF OUT OF THE WIELDER'S HAND WHEN FIRED"

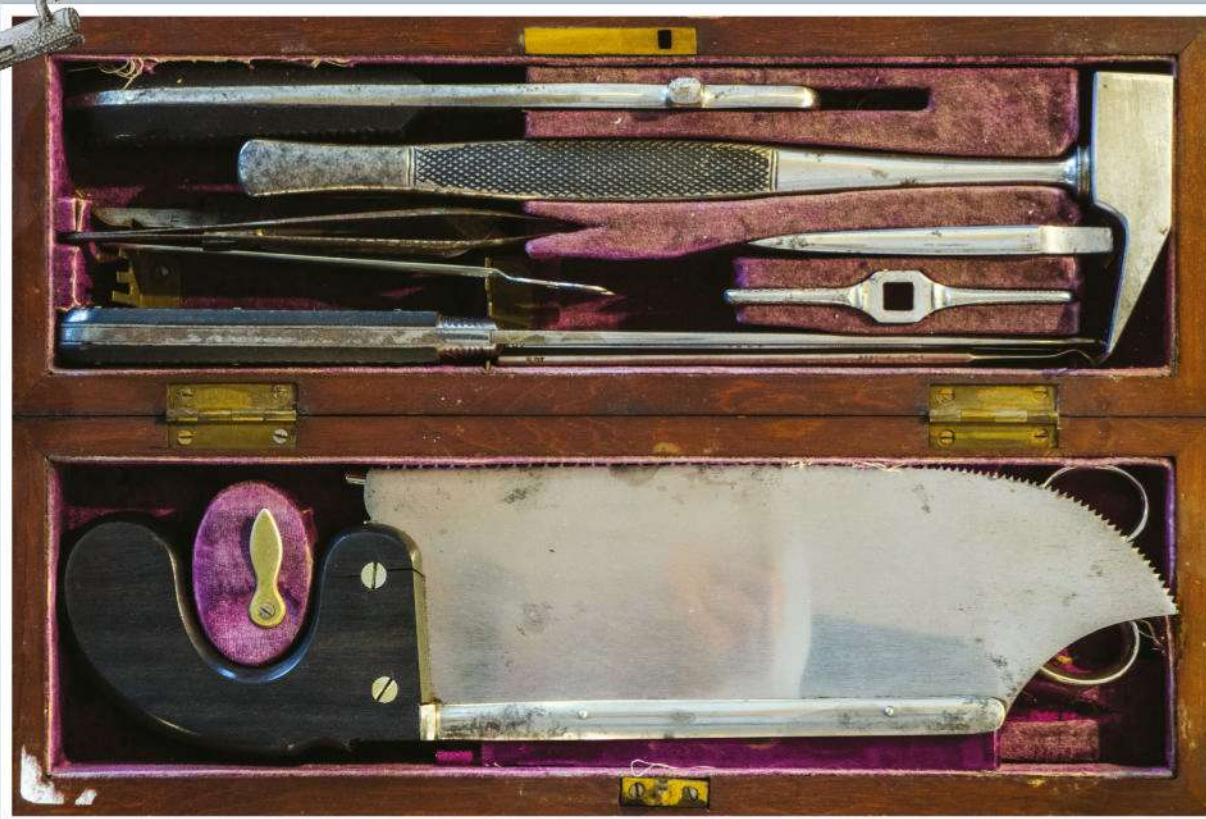
RAMROD

The ramrod was a key accessory that was in loops under the barrel. Made of steel, these rods were used to force cartridge balls and paper down the barrel before firing.

SURGEON'S AMPUTATION FIELD KIT

A surgeon's kit resembled a handiwork toolbox more than a set of medical equipment. It was usually used in a field hospital and the instruments were used for wound care, amputation and trepanning the skull. During operations there were no anaesthetics or antiseptics used.

Left: The hardwood case featured a felt lining within, to protect the instruments, which were themselves made of steel with rosewood, ebony or bone handles



TIMELINE OF THE...

COLDSTREAM GUARDS

One of Britain's oldest regiments has served republic, king and country for over three centuries

The Coldstreamers' famous defence of the farmhouse at Hougomont is seen by many as key to Wellington's victory at Waterloo

THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

The Coldstreamers defeated Napoleon's Grand Armée on numerous occasions during the Peninsular Campaign, and eventually helped to destroy it once and for all at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

1803-1815

1650

FORMATION

Formed by General Monck, the regiment was originally intended to defend Cromwell's new republic. It was renamed the Coldstream Guards in 1670 after Monck died, by which time it was loyal to the monarchy.

Left: Despite winning the British Civil Wars, Oliver Cromwell faced considerable opposition from supporters of the monarchy until his death in 1658

THE CRIMEAN WAR

The Coldstreamers fought throughout Britain's two-and-half year campaign against Imperial Russia in the Crimea, winning battle honours at both the Siege of Sevastopol and at the Battle of Inkerman.

Below: Coldstream Guards Joseph Numa, John Potter and James Deal

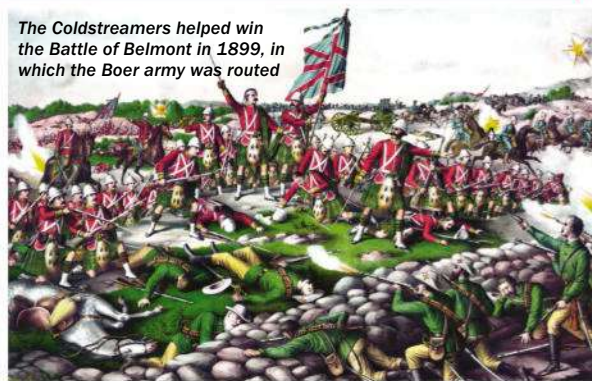


1853-56

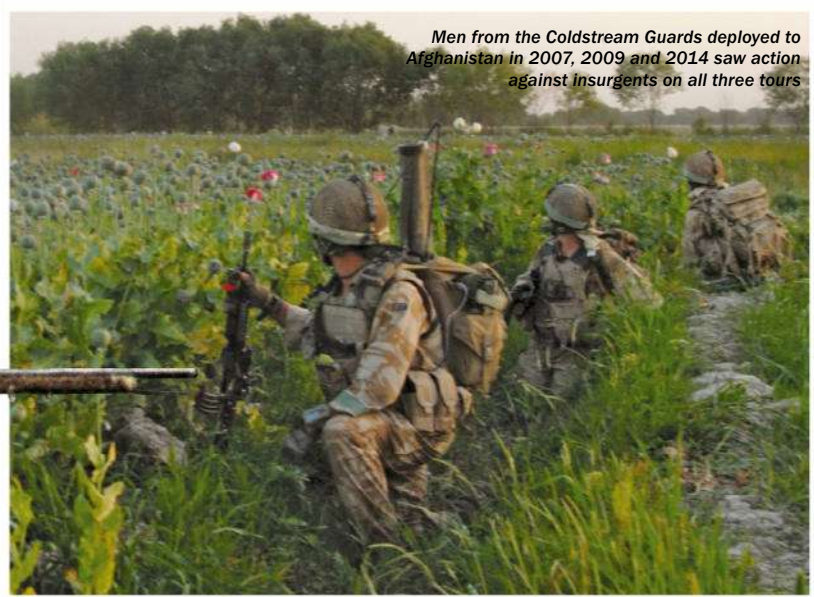
THE BOER WARS

The fight Britain picked with South Africa's Boers over the region's gold reserves was to prove both tricky and costly. The Coldstreamers were once again called upon to fight.

The Coldstreamers helped win the Battle of Belmont in 1899, in which the Boer army was routed



1880-1902



Men from the Coldstream Guards deployed to Afghanistan in 2007, 2009 and 2014 saw action against insurgents on all three tours

AFGHANISTAN

The Coldstreamers have served in Afghanistan three times over a period of 15 years. Between 2001-2015, 456 British soldiers lost their lives during anti-insurgent operations in Helmand Province and elsewhere.



Coldstream Guards Reservists leaving Chelsea Barracks - 1939

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The Coldstream Guards again found themselves in the thick of it during the next war. They served in north Africa, Italy and northern Europe both on foot and in tanks.

Wallace/ANL/REX/Shutterstock

1914-18 1939-45 1990 2007-PRESENT DAY

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Coldstreamers saw action right throughout the war, fighting at the 1st and 3rd Battles of Ypres, as well as at Mons, Loos, Ginchy and the Battle of the Somme.

Right: Two soldiers of the Coldstream Guards at a drinking-water point, during the Battle of Passchendaele, October 1917



THE FIRST GULF WAR

When Saddam Hussein's forces marched into Kuwait in August 1990, the biggest allied army since D-Day was assembled to force them out again. Among them was the 1st battalion of the Coldstream Guards.

Iraqi prisoners are searched by an Allied soldier during Operation Desert Storm



Images: Alamy, Getty, Rex Features

GUARDING THE WORLD

For centuries, the Coldstreamers have played a pivotal role across the globe

1 THE SIEGE OF NAMUR 1695

The Coldstreamers helped recapture this strategically vital city in present-day Belgium – the most significant victory in the Nine Years' War.

2 THE SIEGE OF YORKTOWN 1781

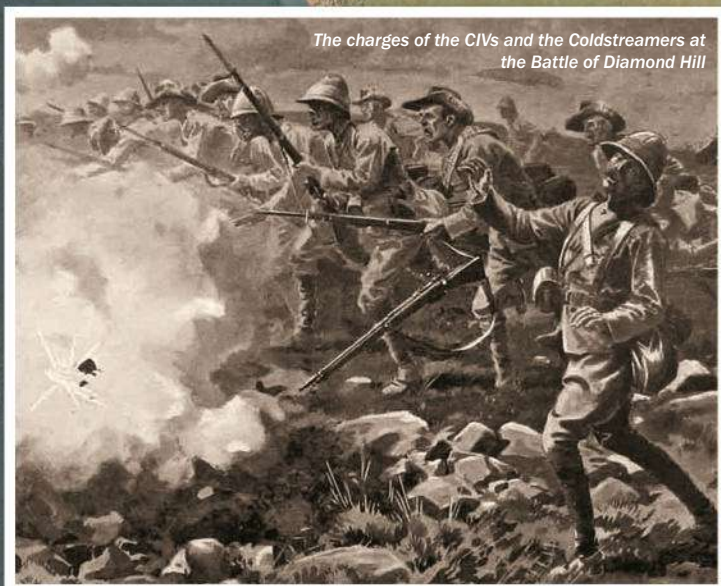
Around 500 Coldstreamers were among defeated British troops at Yorktown. It was the turning point of the American War of Independence.

3 THE BATTLE OF INKERMANN 1854

Coldstreamers played a key role in this victory, which destroyed the will of the Russian Army who had heavily outnumbered the allies.

4 BATTLE OF DIAMOND HILL 1900

Again the Coldstreamers were to be instrumental in ensuring a British victory. It was the turning point of the Second Boer War.



THE TROUBLES
1968–98 NORTHERN IRELAND

THE MONMOUTH REBELLION
1685 ENGLAND

WORLD WAR I
1914–18 FRANCE

THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR
1754–63 FRANCE/GERMANY

PENINSULAR WAR
1807–14 SPAIN

FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY WARS
1792–1802 EUROPE/NORTH AFRICA

THE NINE YEARS' WAR
1688–97 BELGIUM

Two guard regiments, Coldstream and Grenadier, fought at the Battle of Inkerman, 1854



5 THE SOMME 1916

The Coldstreamers fought bravely during Britain's costliest battle ever, seizing strategically significant German positions in Ginchy, despite suffering severe casualties.

6 SALERNO LANDINGS 1943

The Coldstream Guards were among the first Allied troops to invade mainland Europe when they landed at Salerno in September 1943.

3**CRIMEAN WAR**

1853-56 RUSSIA

CYPRUS EMERGENCY

1974 CYPRUS

AFGHANISTAN

2007-PRESENT DAY AFGHANISTAN

6**WORLD WAR II**1939-45 WESTERN DESERT
/ITALY/WESTERN EUROPE**7****FIRST GULF WAR**

1990-91 KUWAIT

MALAYAN EMERGENCY

1948-60 MALAYSIA

"THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS WERE AMONG THE FIRST ALLIED TROOPS TO INVAD MAINLAND EUROPE WHEN THEY LANDED AT SALERNO IN SEPTEMBER 1943"

4**SECOND BOER WAR**

1899-1902 SOUTH AFRICA



Above: Salerno was among the first large scale opposed landings on mainland Europe during WWII

7 OPERATION MOSHTARAK 2010

One of the largest operations of the Afghan War saw Coldstreamers help to drive the Taliban out of its stronghold in Marjah.

The Coldstream Guards were involved in joint operations with US troops in Marjah, Afghanistan



HEROES OF THE GUARD

Some of the British army's most gifted commanders and fearless soldiers have left their mark on the regiment over the centuries

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GEORGE MONCK

YEARS ACTIVE: 1650-61

In 1649, King Charles I was executed and Cromwell took control of the country, but his rule was a fragile one, with support for the Royalist cause still strong – particularly in Scotland. So in 1650, Cromwell raised a new regiment for his New Model Army to challenge Royalist forces north of the border.

The regiment's first commanding officer was General George Monck, who had been imprisoned for fighting for the Royalists during the civil war. While in prison, however, he wrote a book on military tactics that impressed Cromwell so much, he was offered his freedom in exchange for swearing allegiance to the Cromwellian cause. Known as Monck's Regiment of Foot, the unit spent the next decade quashing the Royalist cause all over Scotland.

After Cromwell died in 1658, the country was once again plunged into chaos. In January 1660, Monck, now determined to help restore order, marched on London

with a force of 6,000 soldiers, starting his journey in the small village of Coldstream.

As Monck travelled south, he was able to gauge the mood of the country. When he arrived in London, he told the House of Commons what he'd seen and heard, warning the politicians that the country was sliding back into civil war. Almost immediately, parliament was dissolved, elections held and a new government installed. Among its first acts was the restoration of the monarchy. Cromwell's New Model Army was disbanded – except for Monck's Regiment of Foot, which was spared. In February 1661 at a ceremony at Tower Hill in London, Monck's force symbolically laid down their arms as Republican soldiers and raised them again as Royal ones. The Coldstream Guards had been born.

Right: Monck's Regiment of Foot only changed its name to the Coldstream Guards after Monck's death in 1670



Frederick once had a duel with a fellow colonel who had insulted him. When his opponent missed, Frederick lowered his gun



PRINCE FREDERICK, DUKE OF YORK

YEARS ACTIVE: 1784-93

When George III decided his second son Prince Frederick should pursue a career in the military, he sent him first to learn his trade with the 2nd Horse Grenadier Guards (today's 2nd Life Guards) in 1782, before promoting him to colonel of the Coldstream Guards on 28 October 1784.

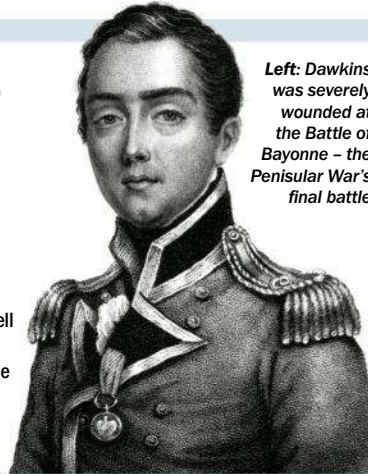
Although setbacks in his early career as a soldier during the Anglo-Russian invasion of Holland in 1799 saw him mocked in the popular children's rhyme 'The Grand Old Duke Of York', he turned into a fine military reformer. His experiences in Holland made him realise how woefully unprepared Britain's army was. By the start of the 19th century he was the country's commander-in-chief, had played a key role in establishing the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, was responsible for preparing the country's defences against French invasion, and had created a force that could cope with Napoleon's Grand Armée.

“ALTHOUGH SETBACKS IN HIS EARLY CAREER AS A SOLDIER DURING THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN INVASION OF HOLLAND IN 1799 SAW HIM MOCKED IN THE POPULAR CHILDREN'S RHYME ‘THE GRAND OLD DUKE OF YORK’, HE TURNED INTO A FINE MILITARY REFORMER”

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HENRY DAWKINS

YEARS ACTIVE: 1804-26

Dawkins joined the regiment as an ensign in 1804 and served with them during one of the most intense periods of combat it ever experienced – the Peninsular War. Between 1811 and 1814, Dawkins was in almost constant action. He was with the 2nd Battalion during the French retreat from Santarem in 1811 and fought at the Battle of Fuentes de Oñoro the same year. In 1812, he fought at Salamanca and in the sieges of Ciudad Rodrigo and Burgos. The year after, he fought at the Battle of Vitoria, as well as at Nive and Nivelle. But 1814 was the year that his luck would run out. Lieutenant Colonel Dawkins was severely wounded at the Battle of Bayonne in April. Promoted to captain, he did eventually make a full recovery just in time to fight in the Battle of Waterloo the following year – a battle that he also managed to survive.



Left: Dawkins was severely wounded at the Battle of Bayonne – the Peninsular War's final battle

JOHN CAMPBELL VC

YEARS ACTIVE: 1896-1933

By the time World War I broke out John 'Jock' Campbell was a career soldier who'd already fought in the Boer War, during which he'd been awarded the Distinguished Service Order and had twice been mentioned in despatches. By September 1916 he found himself at Ginchy in France, fighting in the calamitous Battle of the Somme. During an offensive that had already seen two waves of his battalion wiped out by German machine-gun fire, Campbell took personal command of the third wave and attacked. He rallied his men and then led them against the enemy machine gun posts, capturing them and killing the occupants. In doing so he saved the lives of countless men under his command and, according to his citation, "enabled the division to press on to capture objectives of the highest tactical importance." Later that same year he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

Campbell was dubbed the "Tally-ho" VC by the tabloid press



PETER WRIGHT VC

YEARS ACTIVE: 1936-45

On 25 September CSM Wright, a tall, quiet man from Suffolk, was with the third battalion of the Coldstream Guards in Salerno southern Italy. His unit was ordered to attack a heavily defended German position on top of a hill, and he watched on in horror as German machine-gun fire shredded the two companies of Coldstreamers. With no officers left to lead them, and with the assault teams pinning his comrades down and inflicting serious casualties, Wright single-handedly stormed three machine gun nests, going about his business with grenades and bayonet. The attack then resumed and the German position was eventually taken. For his bravery Wright was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal – but there was to be a further twist. On hearing of Wright's incredible bravery, King George VI upgraded the medal to a Victoria Cross – the first time such an intervention had ever taken place.

Right: On hearing he had won the VC, Wright modestly replied. "Can't be me, must be some other CSM Wright"



RONALD BRITAIN

YEARS ACTIVE: 1917-54

The regimental sergeant major is a legend in the Coldstream Guards. The quintessential regimental sergeant major, he was strict, tough and totally dedicated to the regiment. It was also said that he had the loudest voice in the British army.

Born in Liverpool, Brittain had enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment while still a teenager in order to fight in World War I, before transferring to the South Wales Borderers. Standing at six foot three, he was always destined for the Guards – which has historically always recruited the tallest soldiers in the army – and soon joined the Coldstreamers' ranks. After the war he was

attached to the training staff at Sandhurst, where he shouted at more than 40,000 officer cadets over the decades. He served for a staggering 37 years – well past the normal retiring age – and achieved minor celebrity status afterwards for his post-army work in film and TV.

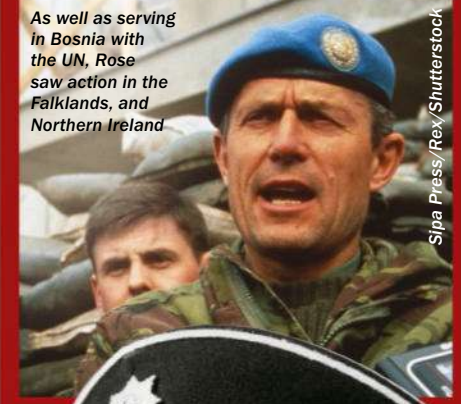
Right: Brittain is thought to have been the originator of the drill-sergeant's favourite insult "you 'orrible little man!"

SIR MICHAEL ROSE

YEARS ACTIVE: 1964-2000

General Sir Michael Rose is arguably the British army's most celebrated soldier of the modern era. He joined the Coldstream Guards as a second lieutenant in 1964 and was soon working his way through the ranks, carving out an increasingly specialised combat role. A major by the time he was in his late 30s, he was appointed commanding officer of the SAS, in 1979 he was commanding the SAS during the Falklands War, and in 1989 was appointed Britain's first-ever director of special forces. Further promotions followed, and as a lieutenant general he became commander of the UK Field Army in 1993 before taking on the role of commander of the UN Protection Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the Yugoslav Civil War. Towards the end of his career, he returned to the regiment he had started out with, however, this time he was appointed colonel of the Coldstream Guards in April 1999.

As well as serving in Bosnia with the UN, Rose saw action in the Falklands, and Northern Ireland



Sipa Press/Rex Shutterstock



THE DEFENCE OF HOUGOUMONT

During the decisive land battle of the Napoleonic Wars, the Coldstreamers earned their most celebrated battle honour against overwhelming odds

When Napoleon's troops came upon Wellington's army near Waterloo on 18 June 1815, they found the main bulk of it defending high ground from behind the safety of a ridgeline. Its flanks, however, were defended by troops in farmhouses that stood in open ground – one at La Haye Sainte on Wellington's left, and one at Hougoumont on his right. Although the former would fall, the 2,000 men defending Hougoumont's chateau and its outbuildings – including men of the 2nd battalion of the Coldstream Guards stationed in the chateau's courtyard itself – would hold out against overwhelming odds for the entire battle.

“HORRIFIC HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE COLDSTREAMERS MANAGE TO GET THE GATES SHUT AGAIN”

1. BRITISH OCCUPY HOUGOUMONT

Wellington, the master defensive tactician, picks his battleground carefully. The evening before the battle takes place, he sends out troops from the Coldstream Guards and the Light Footguards to seize the chateau of Hougoumont and hold it at all costs.

2. FRENCH FORCES PROBE

Later that night, French cavalry reconnoitre the area. On approaching the chateau complex, they're repelled by troops stationed in the wood to Hougoumont's south. Napoleon realises he must now seize the position or risk his advancing army being split.

3. THE FIRST ATTACK

Around 11.30am the following morning, 6,000 French infantrymen hit Hougoumont. Although they manage to drive Wellington's troops out of the wood, they are cut down in the open ground, and so they withdraw.

4. THE SECOND ATTACK

The French, under the command of Napoleon's brother Jerome, now try to outflank Hougoumont. Diversionary attacks come from the south and west while light cavalry are sent around the back to attack it from the north.

5. THE DEFENCES ARE BREACHED

Although barricaded in, the British forces have left the chateau's north gate open in order to aid resupply from the main force that is directly behind them. As the defences west of the chateau are overwhelmed, French troops chase the fleeing British back towards these gates.

6. HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT

The French manage to hack their way through the gates on the north side of the chateau's courtyard. Horrific hand-to-hand fighting takes place before the Coldstreamers manage to shut the gates again. Roughly 40 Frenchmen that are trapped inside are then slaughtered.

7. THE THIRD ATTACK

Jerome mounts another attack through the orchard to the chateau's east, but their advance is halted when they come under fire from the Coldstream Guards who are firing at them from behind the wall of the chateau's formal garden.

8. ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT

Jerome now hammers Hougoumont with artillery fire. A howitzer at the edge of the woods starts dropping incendiary shells into Hougoumont, setting buildings ablaze. The Coldstreamers go on the offensive, retaking the orchard and driving the French back.

9. THE FOURTH ATTACK

The French attack again, the orchard is retaken for a second time, but again their advance is stopped by the Coldstreamers. A British counter-attack then forces them out of the orchard for the second time that day.

10. THE FINAL ASSAULT

Emboldened by the fall of La Haye Sainte on Wellington's left, Hougoumont is attacked again in force. The orchard is retaken, but the French are checked by the indomitable Coldstreamers. Shortly afterwards, Prussian reinforcements tip the battle's balance and Napoleon is defeated.

CLOSING THE GATES AT HOUGOUMONT

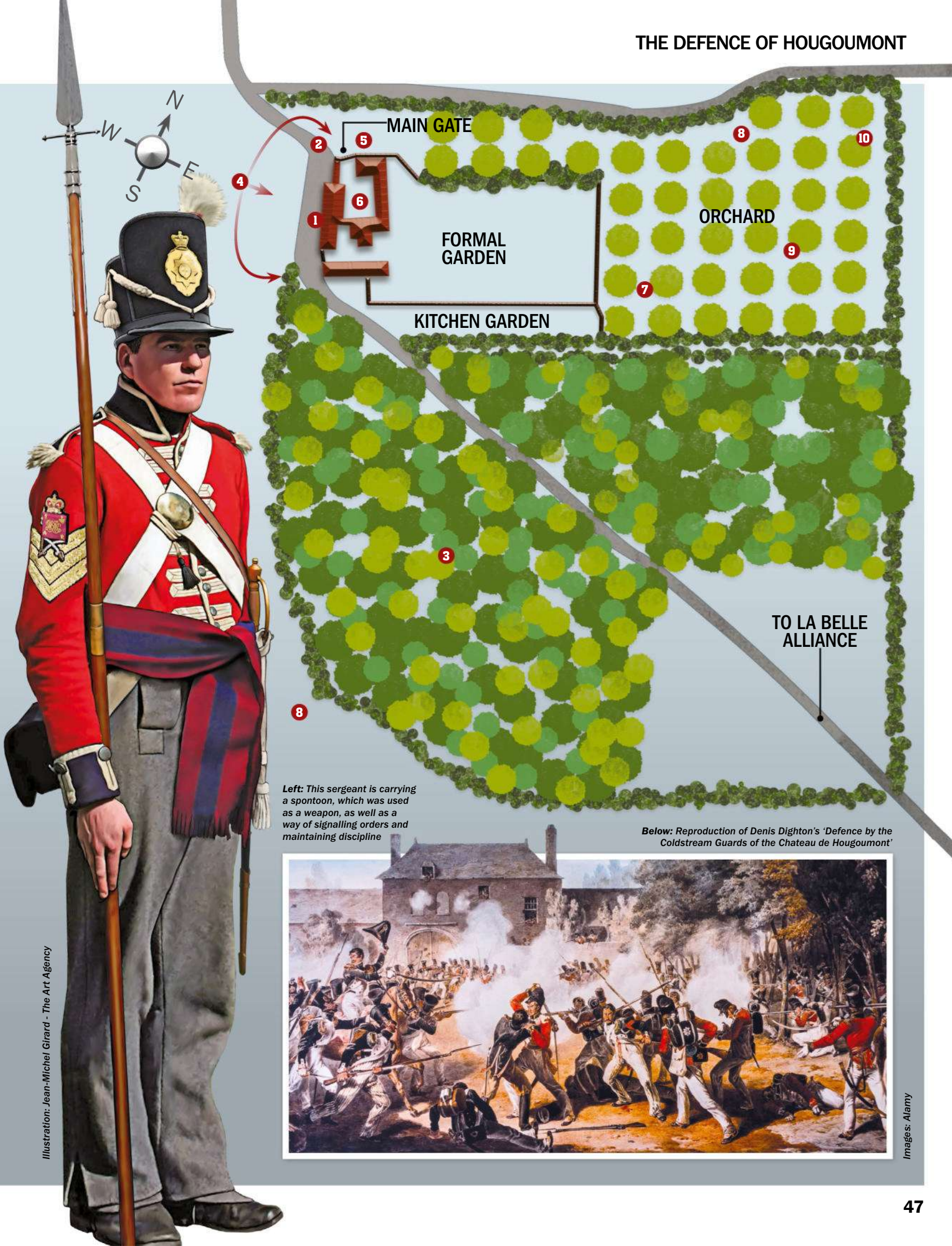
At one point in the battle, the French broke into this courtyard at Hougoumont where vicious, close-up combat left dozens dead



HOLDING HOUGOUMONT WAS PIVOTAL TO WELLINGTON'S VICTORY AT WATERLOO BUT FOR A FEW BRIEF MINUTES ITS DEFENCE HUNG IN THE BALANCE

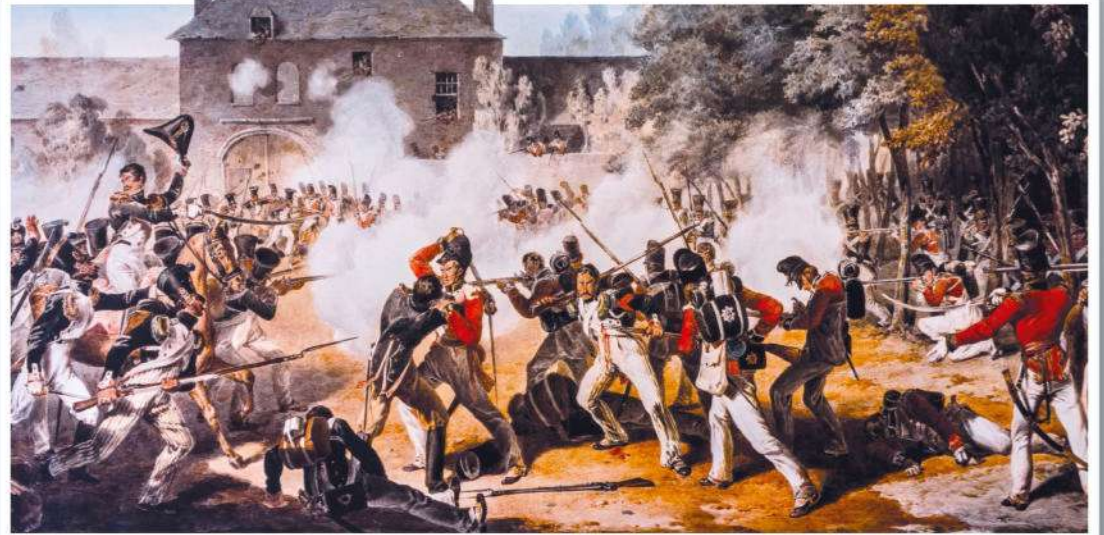
At about 12.30pm during the second French assault against Hougoumont, the hulking frame of Sous-Lieutenant Legro of the French 1st Infantry managed to smash his way through the gate at the northern end of the courtyard with an axe. As soon as it was breached, French troops began pouring inside. Hougoumont looked like it might fall, which would have left Wellington's right flank fatally exposed, shifting the battle in Napoleon's favour. Recognising the grave danger, the garrison's commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel James MacDonnell led a charge directly through the ensuing mêlée in order to shut the gates against the hordes of French troops who were trying to push their way inside.

Assisted by a handful of men, MacDonnell somehow managed to get the gates shut amid ferocious hand-to-hand combat. Once the gates were closed again, MacDonnell's men shored them up with flagstones, carts and debris while the 40 or so French soldiers trapped inside fought on. They were all killed with the exception of an unarmed 11-year-old drummer boy. Hougoumont's 2,500 defenders successfully held out for the rest of the day against about 12,500 French attackers.



Left: This sergeant is carrying a spontoon, which was used as a weapon, as well as a way of signalling orders and maintaining discipline

Below: Reproduction of Denis Dighton's 'Defence by the Coldstream Guards of the Chateau de Hougomont'



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

One of the British army's oldest regiments has a 369-year history fighting for crown and country



Salamanca, Waterloo, Inkerman, Sevastopol, the Somme, Dunkirk, El Alamein, the First Gulf War... The Coldstream Guards' list of battle honours could almost be chapter headings in a comprehensive book about British military history.

With a tradition of rigid discipline that stems from its earliest days as a Republican guard in Cromwell's New Model Army, the Coldstreamers have proved themselves superior in combat and second to none (to borrow their own motto) when it comes to impressing on the parade ground.

FIGHTING NAPOLEON

THE GUARDS DEFEATED THE EMPEROR'S GRAND ARMÉE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS DURING THE PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN AND ELSEWHERE

After fighting in the American War of Independence a decade previously, the regiment was deployed again during the French Revolutionary Wars (1792-1802), where it served in the disastrous Flanders campaign, as well as the more successful expedition to Egypt, helping to halt Napoleon's ambitions in the Middle East.

The Coldstreamers served again during the Peninsular War under the Duke of Wellington, between 1809-14. However, it was during the final campaign of the Napoleonic Wars that the Guards would face their toughest challenge yet: on the front line at the Battle of Waterloo.

THE GUARDS & THE GREAT WAR

THE COLDSTREAMERS WOULD DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES AGAIN AND AGAIN DURING WORLD WAR I, WINNING COUNTLESS BATTLE HONOURS AND INDIVIDUAL MEDALS

As one of the British Army's most prestigious regiments, the Coldstream Guards were among the first to be deployed to France at the outbreak of World War I. Fighting with incredible bravery, they nonetheless experienced shocking losses. At the First Battle of Ypres in 1914, one battalion (around 800 men) was virtually annihilated. Suffering terrible privations and dangers throughout the Western Front campaign, the Coldstreamers, however, distinguished themselves repeatedly during the battles at Mons, Loos, the Somme and at Passchendaele, where they captured several German positions.

Members of the Coldstream Guard pose beside a captured German artillery piece. These 'five-nines' gave Germany an advantage in firepower early in the war



COLDSTREAMERS IN THE CRIMEA

AS THE SECOND MOST SENIOR REGIMENT IN THE BRITISH ARMY, THE GUARDS CAN COUNT VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENTS AMONG THEIR RANKS

The Guards fought during the Crimean War of 1853-56, after which four of its men earned the newly instituted Victoria Cross. The era's combat uniform is similar to the ceremonial one worn today. Note how the buttons are sewn together in pairs to indicate that the Coldstreamers are the British army's second most-senior regiment; the most senior is the Grenadier Guards – the original bodyguards of the exiled Charles II – and whose buttons are sewn in singles.

Right: Colour Sergeant Absalom Durrant as part of the Coldstreamers during the Crimean War



FOOT GUARDS OF WORLD WAR II

WHEN DEPLOYED IN THEIR ORIGINAL ROLE AS INFANTRYMEN, THE COLDSTREAMERS WERE AMONG BRITAIN'S MOST EFFECTIVE UNITS IN THE WAR AGAINST HITLER

Although the 1st and 5th battalions of the Coldstream Guards were drafted into the Guards Armoured Division, the rest remained as infantrymen – and a highly effective fighting force they were too. As well as serving in northern Europe, the Guards also saw action in the Western Desert Campaign under Montgomery, where they helped to defeat Rommel's Afrika Korps. They also took part in the invasion of Italy in 1943, earning numerous battle honours as they fought their way up the country.



Coldstream infantry patrol through the streets of Arras, 1 September 1944

SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN

MORE THAN JUST A TOURIST ATTRACTION, THE MODERN COLDSTREAM GUARDS ARE STILL AMONG THE BRITISH INFANTRY'S FIGHTING ELITE

The regiment was deployed to the UK's most recent conflict in Afghanistan from 2007 to 2014. Although the weapons are the same as those used for ceremonial duties, the uniform is vastly different, reflecting the huge change in warfare over the centuries. The modern guardsman's kit reflects the need for a soldier to adapt to his environment in order to survive. Standing out is no longer considered an advantage, as the DP (disruptive pattern) camouflage combat smocks and trousers worn by the soldiers below demonstrates.



Guardsmen from Number three Company in the Babaji area of Helmand province, December 2009

O'Malley/REX/Shutterstock

MODERN-DAY CEREMONIAL COLDSTREAMER

THE ORNATE CEREMONIAL UNIFORM OF THE MEN WHO GUARD BUCKINGHAM PALACE IS ACTUALLY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BATTLEDRESS FROM THE VICTORIAN ERA

Today, Coldstream Guards are used both for combat and ceremonial duties, and when employed for the latter a modern-day guardsman's attire is almost identical to his Victorian forebears. The famous bearskin hat adds an additional 18 inches to his height and was intended to make the soldier look taller – and therefore more intimidating – on the battlefield. His red tunic is coloured so not because it would mask blood, but because it made him more visible – which was considered an advantage when battles were fought more formally.

Made from around 11 layers of woollen felt, the tunic would have also served as an early form of body armour, providing a degree of protection from musket balls, although its usefulness in this capacity obviously deteriorated with advances in firearm technology. The L85A2 assault rifle this guardsman is holding, for example, fires a high-velocity 5.56mm round that would go straight through such material.

Right and below: As part of their duties, the Coldstream Guards also contribute to world-famous ceremonial occasions in London

“THE FAMOUS BEARSKIN HAT ADDS AN ADDITIONAL 18 INCHES TO HIS HEIGHT AND WAS INTENDED TO MAKE THE SOLDIER LOOK TALLER – AND THEREFORE MORE INTIMIDATING – ON THE BATTLEFIELD”



REDCOATS IN ACTION

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How some of the earliest redcoats snatched a victory

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The Duke of Marlborough's brilliant battle plan

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How the British Army put down Stuart insurrection

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The Young Pretender's last grasp at the English throne

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The complex power struggles of the Seven Years' War

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How redcoat hero General Wolfe met his untimely end

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The decisive victory that made Canada British

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The redcoat role in the founding of the United States of America

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How the War of Independence overspilled worldwide

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The conflict in the US could have been a British victory

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Meet the soldiers who fought in the US's key conflict

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Soldiers of Crown and country go head to head

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The first and biggest battle of the War of Independence

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How the redcoats planned to lock down the Hudson River

94 Peninsular War

An essential guide to this European conflict

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An in-depth guide to the quintessential redcoat victory

100 Charge of the Light Brigade

One of the biggest military disasters in British history

112 The Battle of Inkerman

The road to an Allied victory at the Siege of Sevastopol

120 The Zulu War

The disastrous colonial conflict and the dark heart of empire

130 Rorke's Drift

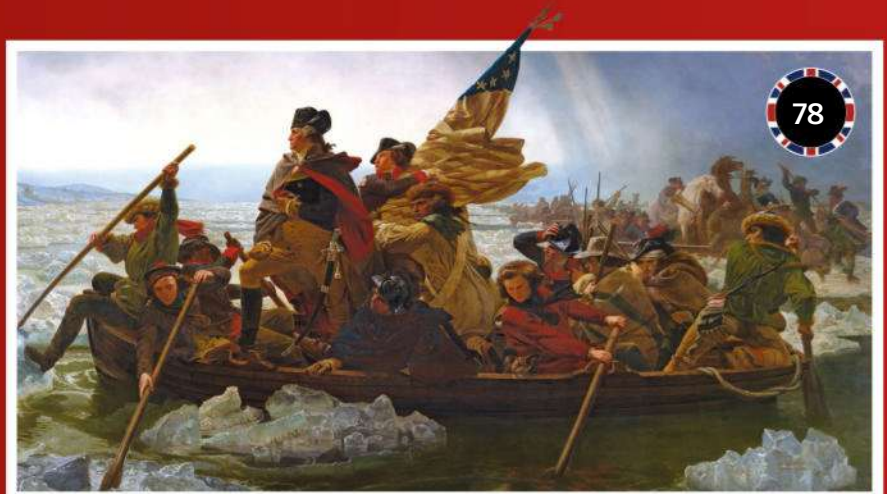
The incredible redcoat defence that earned a place in history

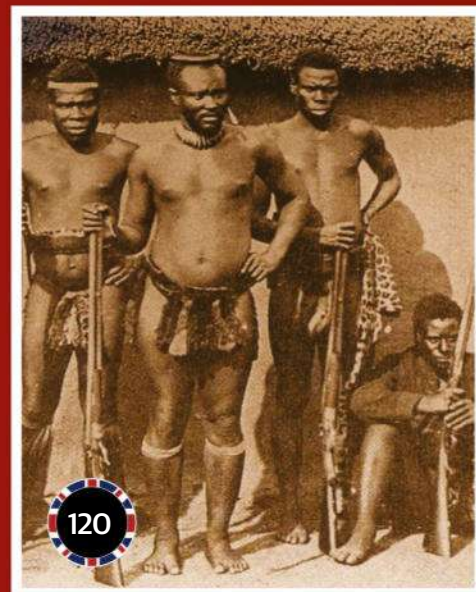
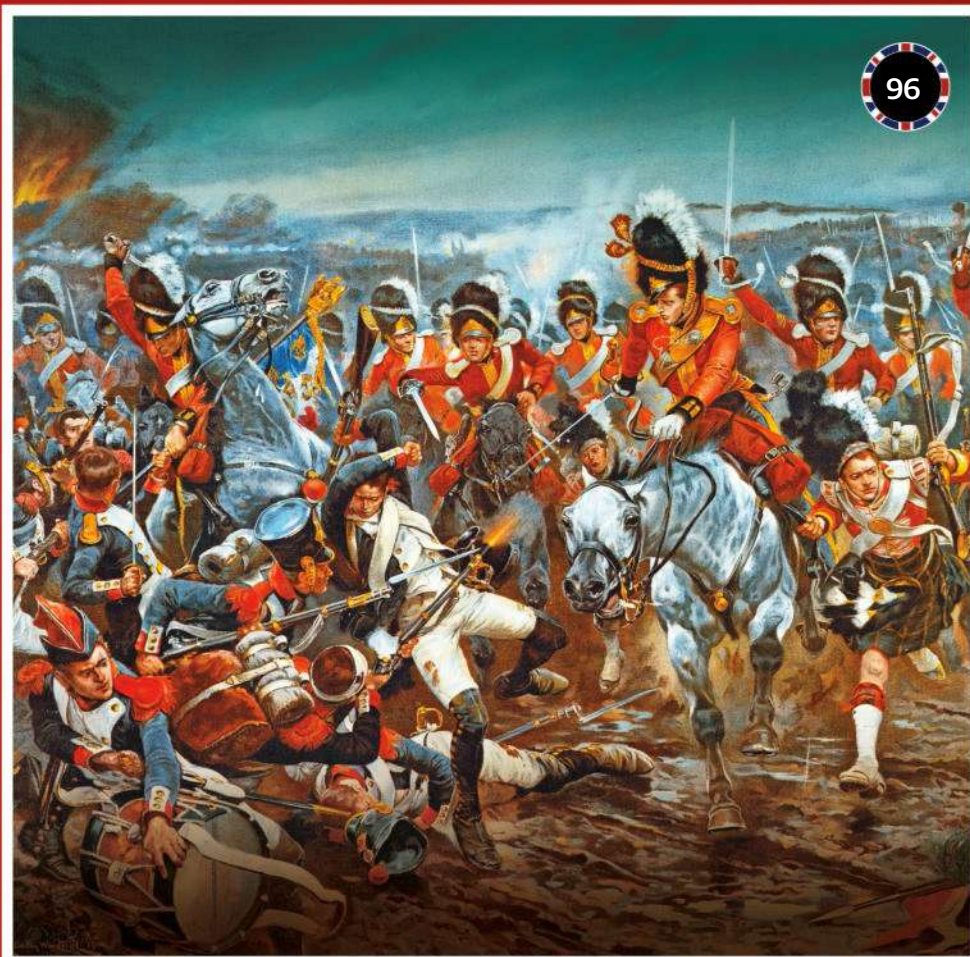
140 End of the Thin Red Line

The Battle of Ginnis marked the end of redcoat battledress

142 Tradition and ceremony in uniform

The red coat remains a potent symbol of the British military





DECISION AMONG THE DUNES

An army of English Protestants and French Catholics soundly defeated the combined arms of a Spanish and Royalist force near the port of Dunkirk

In the spring of 1658, the New Model Army wore the iconic red coat of the English Army into battle for the first time. Ironically, they were allied with a force of Catholic French soldiers and under the senior command of a French general, Henri de la Tour d'Auvergne, Vicomte de Turenne. Although Cromwell had railed against the "godless papists", his motivation was simple. The exiled King Charles II and his brother, James, Duke of York, posed a continuing threat, intent on raising an army and returning to England to reclaim the throne. Charles had enlisted the assistance of the Catholic King of Spain, Philip IV, and succeeded in raising five Royalist regiments on the continent.

A bargain struck

To eliminate the Royalist threat, Cromwell negotiated with the French Cardinal Jules

Mazarin to join forces. France was at war with Spain, and the troops that the Protectorate might provide would be welcome, not to mention the powerful English fleet that might blockade enemy ports in the Spanish Netherlands, modern-day Belgium. Thus, the new allies determined to strike a blow in the long disputed region of Flanders. An invading army of around 20,000 French soldiers and a half-dozen English regiments, 6,000 strong, would land on the continent and capture the fortress coastal towns of Dunkirk, Mardyke and Gravelines.

In May 1657, Turenne, joined by the English under the command of Sir John Reynolds, invaded Flanders. They were opposed by an army of Spanish and Royalist troops along with disaffected Frenchmen. Moving cautiously, Turenne chose a circuitous route toward the Flemish cities, leading Cromwell to threaten

to withdraw the English soldiers if the pace of the offensive did not quicken. Finally, on 29 September Turenne reached Mardyke, and two days later the city was in Anglo-French hands.

Meanwhile, Charles had become enraged with the apparent unwillingness of the Spanish to fully commit to his restoration. Strapped for funds, the Spanish had been coaxed into supporting Charles with promises of the return of Jamaica and freedom for Catholics to worship in England following a successful invasion.

The decisive campaign

In May 1658, Turenne's army was again on the move. Cromwell demanded the capture of Dunkirk as swiftly as possible. The Anglo-French Army marched from Amiens toward Dunkirk, but King Philip's illegitimate son Juan José mistakenly sent reinforcements to Cambrai instead. The Royalist garrison there,

TIMELINE OF DUNES AND TIDES

ENGLISH TROOPS ARRIVE 19 MAY 1657

The first English soldiers of the New Model Army arrive in Flanders, landing near the French city of Boulogne, under the command of Sir John Reynolds.

INTERRUPTION AT MARDYKE 29 SEPT 1657

With the approval of Cromwell, Turenne's army diverts to attack the city of Mardyke and offers additional troops and supplies to the effort.

A WINTER'S WAIT 15 NOV 1657

Turenne takes the Anglo-French Army into winter quarters and plans for the renewal of the campaign with the coming spring.

ANGLO-FRENCH PACT SIGNED MARCH 1657

Representatives of the Protectorate and the French government, directed by Cardinal Mazarin, conclude a treaty of military alliance against Spain as the Anglo-Spanish War continues.

ANGLO-FRENCH ADVANCE 13 SEPT 1657

The Anglo-French Army marches toward Dunkirk amid requests from the French government for siege guns and supplies, as well as from Reynolds requesting reinforcements and naval support.

FALL OF MARDYKE 1 OCT 1657

Mardyke falls, and Cromwell continues to press for a direct attack on Dunkirk, although Turenne gains support for a movement toward Gravelines, which fails after Spanish defenders flood the countryside.

CROMWELL THREATENS WITHDRAWAL 10 SEPT 1657

Despite Marshal Turenne's victory at the siege of Montmédy, Cromwell threatens to withdraw the New Model Army contingent under the French leader's command unless an offensive against Dunkirk is undertaken immediately.

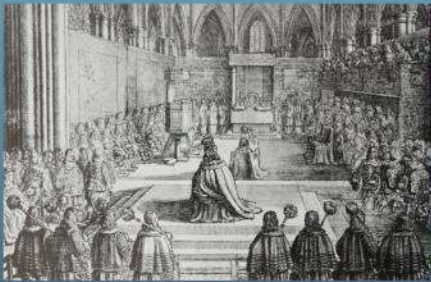
RENEWAL OF THE ALLIANCE 28 MARCH 1658

Although Cromwell has been frustrated at times, the English Protestant Protectorate and the Catholic government of France renew their military alliance for another year.



CELEBRATION OF VICTORY

On 31 July 1658, a day of Thanksgiving was proclaimed throughout England following the victory at the Battle of the Dunes and the surrender of Dunkirk. Meanwhile, the Anglo-French Army under Turenne had captured the Flemish towns of Bergues, Furnes, and Dixmunde. Turenne then laid siege to Gravelines, which fell on 27 August. The successful campaign that followed the Battle of the Dunes hastened the coming of the Peace of the Pyrenees, which ended the war between France and Spain on 7 November 1659. Internal unrest wracked England following the death of Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell on 3 September 1658; however, England and Spain remained at war. The Anglo-Spanish War, which had dragged on since 1654, finally ended after the restoration of King Charles II and the House of Stuart to the throne of England in 1660.



a single English regiment, was slaughtered. Virtually unopposed, Turenne approached the outer reaches of Dunkirk. Unhindered, his soldiers soon erected a pair of siege lines, one facing the city and the other directed outward to defend against any approaching enemy force. Eighteen English warships blockaded the port city to prevent Spanish resupply or reinforcement. With Condé serving as his advisor and commanding the left wing of his army while the Duke of York was in charge of the right, Juan José belatedly drew up his 16,000 troops along a series of dunes to the northeast of Dunkirk.

Taking the tides

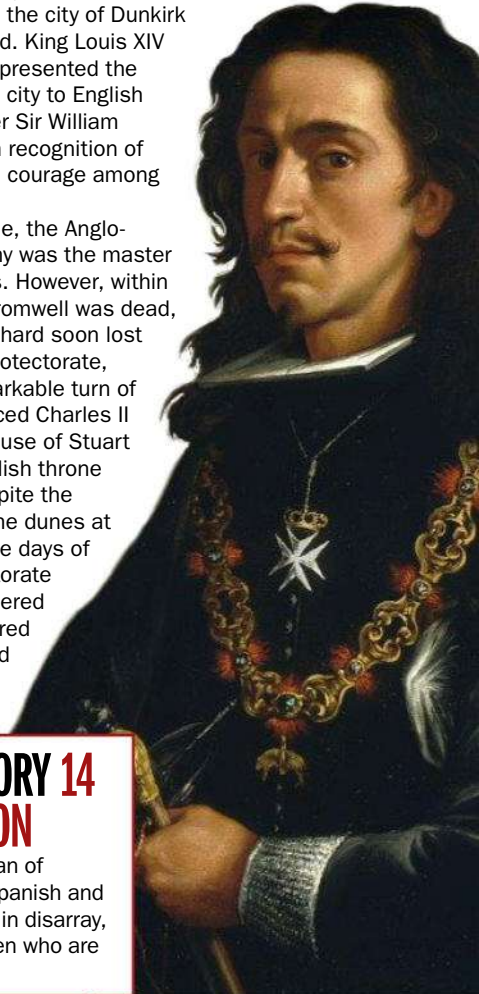
At about 10am on 14 June 1658, Turenne seized the initiative. Leaving 6,000 troops in the siege works, he arrayed his foot soldiers in two lines with cavalry on both flanks. As the tide rushed out, Turenne intended to send his cavalry against a suddenly exposed Spanish right flank. Turenne advanced to within 450 metres of the enemy and then ordered a barrage of artillery salvoes followed by a general advance. Quickly, the English infantry outpaced the rest of the Anglo-French assault. Targeting a 46-metre tall dune defended by Spanish soldiers, the red-coated English pikemen and musketeers rushed ahead, climbed the dune, and put the defenders to flight. Redcoats and Spanish troops grappled hand to hand. Wounded and dead men toppled down the sandy slope. Within minutes, the English controlled the dune.

As Turenne comprehended the magnitude of the English success, he implemented his initial plan. French infantry assaulted Juan José's centre, and resistance there began to crumble.

French cavalry splashed to his left, through the receding tide, and rapidly enveloped the Spanish right flank. As the Spanish line unravelled, Condé held his troops together on the left but was soon compelled to withdraw.

In two hours of fighting, Turenne had driven the enemy from the field. The heroic rush of the English regiments had set the tone for the battle early and ensured a great victory. Only 400 men had been killed, but half of these were English. The Spanish lost around 1,000 men. Ten days after the Battle of the Dunes, the city of Dunkirk surrendered. King Louis XIV personally presented the keys to the city to English commander Sir William Lockhart in recognition of the English courage among the dunes.

For a time, the Anglo-French Army was the master of Flanders. However, within months, Cromwell was dead, his son Richard soon lost the Lord Protectorate, and a remarkable turn of events placed Charles II and the House of Stuart on the English throne again. Despite the victory in the dunes at Dunkirk, the days of the Protectorate were numbered – but their red coats would endure for centuries.



“ALTHOUGH LORD PROTECTOR OLIVER CROMWELL HAD RAILED AGAINST THE ‘GODLESS PAPISTS,’ HIS FOREIGN POLICY WAS NEVERTHELESS PRAGMATIC”

COMPLETE VICTORY 14 JUNE 1658; NOON

Turenne executes his plan of envelopment, and the Spanish and Royalist forces fall back in disarray, losing at least 6,000 men who are killed or captured.

ENGLISH REINFORCEMENTS LAND 24 MAY 1658

As the English fleet sorties to participate in the coming action at Dunkirk, 4,000 English soldiers, at least 1,000 of the veterans of New Model Army campaigns, reach Flanders.

THE SPANISH MARCH 1 JUNE 1658

Juan José gathers his forces at Ypres and proceeds toward Dunkirk in an effort to relieve the pressure on the outnumbered garrison in the city.

BATTLE OF THE DUNES JOINED 14 JUNE 1658; 10AM

Turenne orders a general advance against the Spanish lines along the dunes northeast of Dunkirk. New Model Army troops outpace their allies, swarming atop a 46-metre high dune and routing the Spanish.

FORWARD FROM AMIENS 13 MAY 1658

After assembling his army at Amiens, Turenne, accompanied by young King Louis XIV, crosses the River Somme, threatens the town of Hesdin, and reaches Soex, 16 kilometres from Dunkirk, in ten days.

ANGLO-FRENCH CONSOLIDATE 25 MAY 1658

With French troops marching from the east and English soldiers approaching from the west, Turenne consolidates his army and prepares to lay siege to Dunkirk.

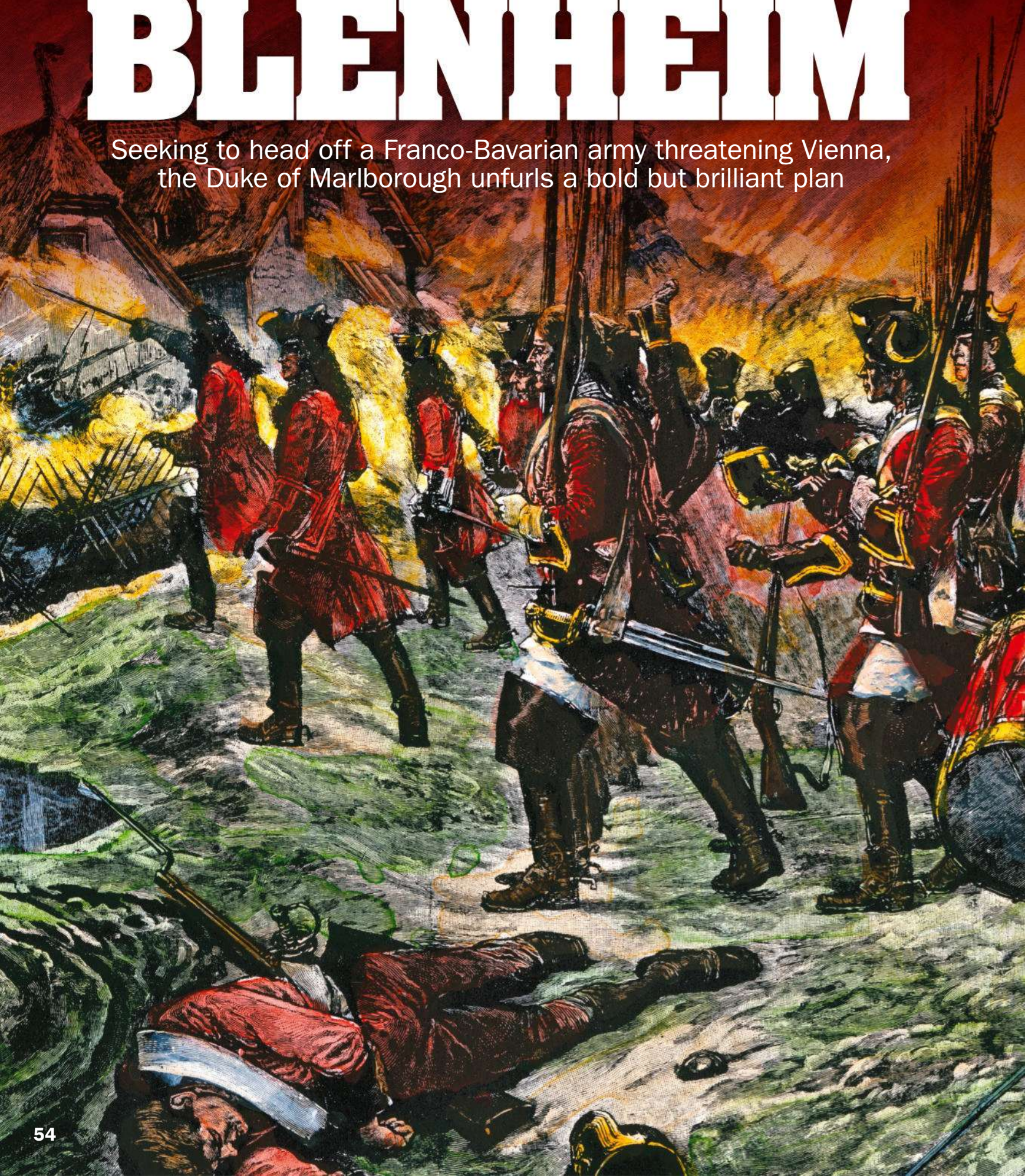
SPOILS OF WAR 25 JUNE 1658

The day after Dunkirk surrenders to the Anglo-French Army, King Louis XIV presents the keys to the city to English commander Sir William Lockhart.



BLENHEIM

Seeking to head off a Franco-Bavarian army threatening Vienna, the Duke of Marlborough unfurls a bold but brilliant plan



Lieutenant General Lord John Cutts' British infantry assaults the village of Blenheim at the start of the battle

BLenheim, BAVARIA 13 AUGUST 1704

The late summer sun beat down on the verdant fields on the left bank of the upper Danube, as long lines of scarlet-coated infantry advanced on the village of Blenheim. French soldiers peered from behind barricades as the enemy advanced determinedly towards their position. When the English came to within 30 yards, the French fired a deafening volley. Cries and groans went up in the English ranks as musket balls found their targets. Wounded and dying men dropped to the ground.

The French fired through holes in walls and from behind overturned carts. When the English reached the barricades, they delivered a crashing volley at point-blank range and then lunged at the enemy with bayonets. The French fired yet more volleys in response, and, finding themselves exposed to such brutal fire, the English drifted back down the slope to regroup. However, their valiant commander, Brigadier General Archibald Rowe, had been mortally wounded. His broken body now lay crumpled at the barricades, along with those who had tried, in vain, to reach him.

To the 2,800 men of Rowe's Brigade, it may have seemed like murder to march against such a well-fortified position. However, allied army commander John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, had crafted a cunning plan to deceive the French. He had no qualms sacrificing men when necessary, and the purpose of Rowe's attack was to bait the French into reinforcing Blenheim.

On the opposite end of the field, Prince Eugene of Savoy was launching a similar attack with his Imperial troops against the village of Lutzingen. As for the Franco-Bavarian army, its commander, Marshal Camille d'Hostun, duc de Tallard, had deliberately chosen to defend the line of a stream that separated the two armies. His army was spread out along a four-mile front on the Plain of Hochstadt. Tallard believed the flat ground behind the Nebel would give his French cavalrymen ample room to outmanoeuvre their counterparts. This clash of arms, on the hot afternoon of 13 August 1704, would be the turning point a multi-national dispute that would rage for over a decade.

History of aggression

When the sickly King Charles II of Spain died childless on 1 November 1700, he left his throne to French King Louis XIV's grandson, Duke Philip of Anjou. Although the French took steps to allay the fear of other European nations that the two crowns might unite at some future date, France's enemies nevertheless grew suspicious of the French king's intentions, given his past aggressions. It did not help the matter that Louis XIV sent his troops into the Spanish Netherlands in February 1701, to seize the border forts that served as a buffer between the French and Dutch. This only served as proof that the acquisition of the Spanish throne was meant to help facilitate French expansion.



Accordingly, in 1701, England, the United Provinces, and the Holy Roman Empire revived the Grand Alliance against France. The ensuing 13-year conflict became known as the War of the Spanish Succession. When 52-year-old John Churchill, Earl of Marlborough, arrived in the United Provinces with 12,000 British troops in June 1702, the allies took the offensive. Marlborough helped the Dutch recover some of the French-held fortresses, for which Queen Anne proclaimed him duke in December 1702.

Marlborough felt stifled fighting alongside the cautious Dutch, so in late 1703 he received approval to campaign in southern Germany. Bavaria had defected from the alliance that year and joined France. Fearing that a combined Franco-Bavarian army might topple the emperor's Imperial armies and capture Vienna, Marlborough planned to strike a pre-emptive blow against Bavaria.

On 19 May 1704, Marlborough led his 20,000-strong army south. He planned to join forces with Prince Eugene of Savoy's Imperial army operating along the Upper Rhine. Marlborough decided to cross the Danube at Donauworth, but the crossing was blocked by a Bavarian force entrenched on the Schellenberg Heights overlooking the town. Bavarian Elector Maximilian-Emanuel sent Marshal Count Jean

Baptist d'Arco's 12,000-man army to obstruct Marlborough. The duke launched a frontal assault on 2 July that smashed through the Bavarian line in one location, forcing it to withdraw from its position.



In the face of Marlborough's invasion of Bavaria, all of the French and Bavarian forces in the duchy assembled in the fortified town of Augsburg to await further reinforcements from France. Tallard arrived in the town with substantial French reinforcements on 3 August. The 56,000-strong Franco-Bavarian army crossed to left bank of the Danube, threatening Marlborough's supply line. On 11 August, the duke and Prince Eugene joined forces.

Pinning the flanks

Marlborough dispatched a large body of cavalry to protect the allied army as it broke camp the following morning. This advance guard, which rode west in the early hours of 13 August, took up a blocking position in farm fields. The allies formed into nine columns, four of which belonged to Prince Eugene's 16,000-man right wing and five to Marlborough's 36,000-man left wing. Prince Eugene's wing departed first as it had a longer march. Marlborough intended to make strong attacks on the villages at either end of the enemy line.

To ensure that no more allied troops than necessary were funnelled into the attacks on Blenheim and Lutzingen, both commanders would have to lead from the front and closely monitor the diversionary attacks. These assaults were to be strong enough to compel the Franco-Bavarian army to commit its reserves to both flanks in the belief that

OPPOSING FORCES



vs

GRAND ALLIANCE	FRANCO-BAVARIAN ARMY
LEADERS John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough & Eugene, Prince of Savoy	LEADERS Marshal Camille d'Hostun, duc de Tallard; Ferdinand, comte de Marsin; Maximilian Emanuel II von Wittelsbach, Elector of Bavaria
INFANTRY 67 battalions	INFANTRY 89 battalions
CAVALRY 181 squadrons	CAVALRY 124 squadrons
GUNS 66	GUNS 90
TOTAL 52,000 men	TOTAL 56,000 men



Prince Eugene of Savoy (left) and the Duke of Marlborough (right) were kindred spirits on the battlefield. Working in close co-operation they defeated a larger army at Blenheim



The Duke of Marlborough's invasion of Bavaria in 1704 successfully countered the Franco-Bavarian offensive

the allies were attempting to turn one or both flanks. Since Marlborough's wing would deliver the main attack in the left-centre late in the day, he would have to make sure that Lieutenant General Lord John Cutts made a convincing attack on Blenheim.

The French observed the allied advance about 7am, but Tallard did not order the troops to be awakened for another hour. When he became convinced his enemy was preparing a major attack, he ordered the tents packed up and sent to the rear. By 10am, Marlborough's troops were deployed for battle, but Prince Eugene's men were still making their way toward their jump-off positions. Previously, at 8am, French artillery crews had begun shelling enemy formations, and Marlborough had his men lie down to reduce casualties. Tallard took command of the right wing opposite Marlborough. The Elector and French Marshal Count Ferdinand of Marsin commanded their left wing, opposite Prince Eugene.

At 9am, the three Franco-Bavarian commanders climbed to the belfry of the Blenheim church to observe the enemy deployment. A heated discussion ensued about how to defend the Nebel – the Elector and Marsin favoured deploying their troops directly behind the stream so that they could

"IN THE FACE OF MARLBOROUGH'S INVASION OF BAVARIA, ALL OF THE FRENCH AND BAVARIAN FORCES IN THE DUCHY ASSEMBLED IN THE FORTIFIED TOWN OF AUGSBURG TO AWAIT FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS FROM FRANCE"

contest the allied crossing, thereby driving up enemy casualties. But Tallard, who was sceptical that the allies would send infantry across the Nebel, favoured placing his cavalry and infantry well back from the Nebel so that it could counterattack over dry ground any enemy force that managed to cross the stream. Tallard prevailed, although Marsin and the Elector intended to command their wing as they saw fit.

On the south side of the Nebel, where the Franco-Bavarian waited to receive the attack, there was a third village, Oberglau, which was closer to Lutzingen than it was to Blenheim. While the Elector took command of the Bavarians defending Lutzingen, Marsin positioned himself with the French defending Oberglau. The rest of the ground from Oberglau to Blenheim was Tallard's responsibility.

The shortest route of advance for the allied army was across the Nebel toward Blenheim.

Lieutenant General Marquis Philippe de Clérambault commanded nine garrisoned infantry battalions inside Blenheim.

Behind the village were 18 more infantry battalions that constituted the right wing's infantry reserve. The only other infantry belonging to Tallard's wing were nine inexperienced infantry battalions, which were stationed behind his cavalry.

Marlborough's chief of artillery, Colonel Holcroft Blood, had his guns in position at 10am and they engaged the French artillery on the opposite side of the Nebel. Meanwhile, allied engineers began building five causeways that would be needed to move men and guns over the marsh on both sides of the river.

Shortly after 12pm, a mounted courier from Prince Eugene handed Marlborough a dispatch stating that most of Eugene's forces were in position and ready to attack. This was the

Blenheim prevented the French from extending their influence across all of Europe



news Marlborough had waited for all morning. He sent an order to Cutts instructing him to advance on Blenheim.

Rowe's Brigade, which had taken cover in a dip in the terrain 150 yards past the Nebel, had been pounded by a battery of 24-pounders near the village, and anything seemed better than staying in that spot. Cutts' infantry attacked two more times during the next two hours with the same results. At that point, Marlborough rode over to Cutts and told him to deploy his men 60 yards from the French barricades and make it appear as if they might attack again at any moment.

The tactic had the desired result, because by mid-afternoon Clérambault had ordered the reserve battalions to move into the village and into the cornfield on the west side of the village. This meant that 12,000 French infantry, which was the majority of Tallard's foot, was committed to the defence of Blenheim. It was exactly what Marlborough wanted.

Bavarian payback

Prince Eugene's musketeers had a difficult time advancing across the broken ground near the Swabian Jura, where a number of mountain brooks fed the Nebel. The allied attack in that sector began when Field Marshal Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau led two brigades of hardy Prussians toward Lutzingen. They ran headlong into Bavarian infantry under D'Arco, who was anxious to settle a score against the allies for having been whipped at the Schellenberg. The Elector had massed his artillery at Lutzingen, and it did great damage to the Prussian lines. When Prince Eugene saw the Prussians flagging, he fed two brigades of Danish foot into the fight.

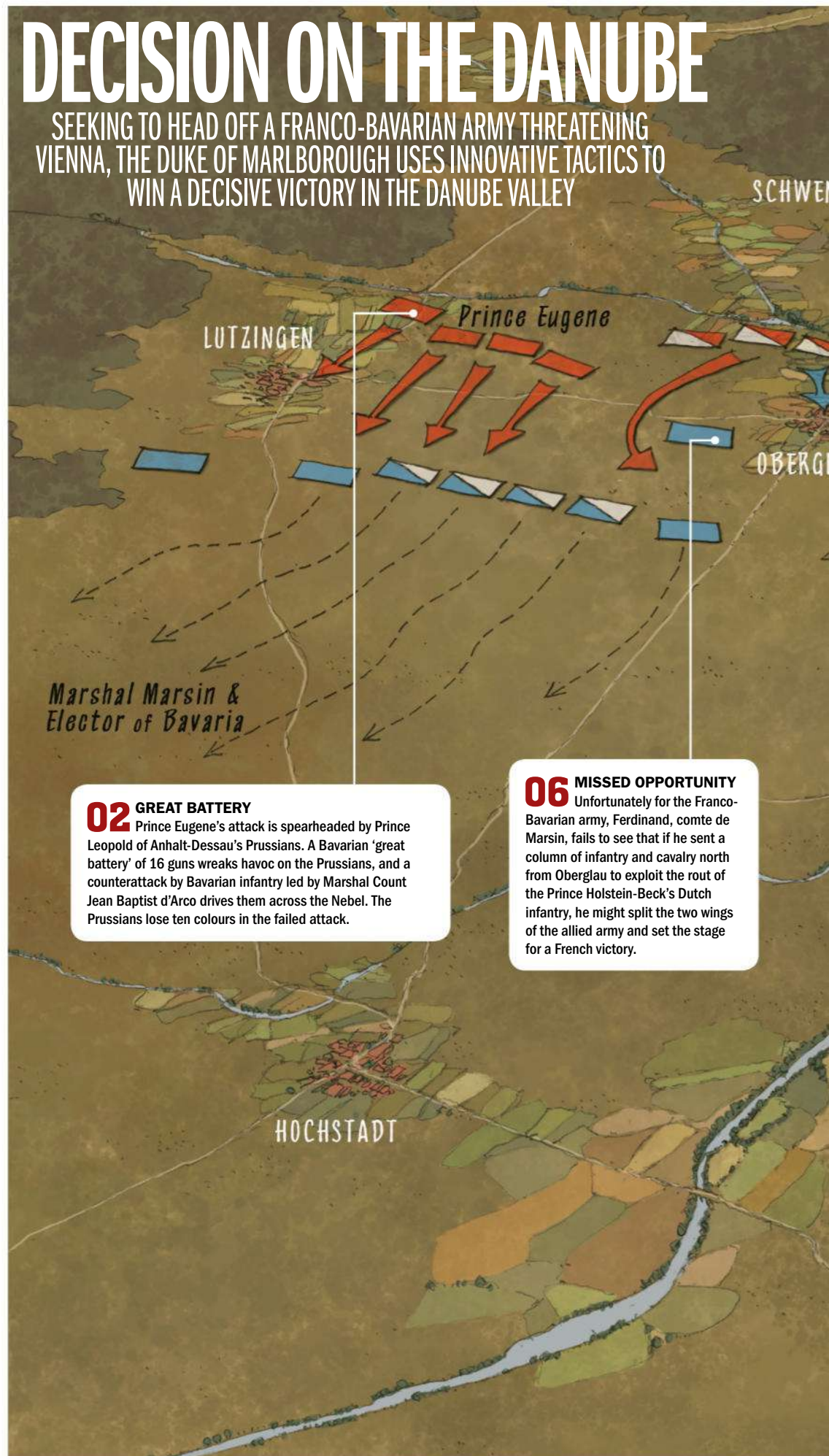
The advantage lay with the defenders, and a Bavarian counterattack scattered the Prussians. Indeed, the Prussians were so shaken they fled well beyond the point they had started their attack, but Prince Eugene rallied them. Most of his guns had deployed at Oberglau, and therefore his infantry advancing on Lutzingen lacked artillery support. By mid-afternoon Eugene had made no headway against the Bavarians.

Tallard's strength was that he had 64 squadrons of cavalry totalling approximately 8,000 troopers. The most dignified of these were eight squadrons of Gens d'Armes, which were the king's household cavalry. They had a long tradition of battlefield prowess, and their ranks contained many aristocrats. However, the French and English cavalry contingents fought differently. As a general rule, the French cavalry trotted halfway towards their target, halted to fire a volley, and then charged home with their swords. In blunt contrast, the English simply charged home with their swords, which enabled them to focus on manoeuvring to the best advantage during an attack. It soon became apparent which approach worked best.

During Cutts' attack on Blenheim, Lieutenant General Beat-Jacques, Comt de Zurlouben, had launched spoiling attacks with the French Gens d'Armes against Cutts' unprotected right flank. Cutts had requested assistance from one of Lieutenant General Henry Lumley's brigades stationed nearby, which was commanded by Colonel Francis Palmes. In response to

DECISION ON THE DANUBE

SEEKING TO HEAD OFF A FRANCO-BAVARIAN ARMY THREATENING VIENNA, THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH USES INNOVATIVE TACTICS TO WIN A DECISIVE VICTORY IN THE DANUBE VALLEY



02 GREAT BATTERY

Prince Eugene's attack is spearheaded by Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau's Prussians. A Bavarian 'great battery' of 16 guns wreaks havoc on the Prussians, and a counterattack by Bavarian infantry led by Marshal Count Jean Baptist d'Arco drives them across the Nebel. The Prussians lose ten colours in the failed attack.

06 MISSED OPPORTUNITY

Unfortunately for the Franco-Bavarian army, Ferdinand, comte de Marsin, fails to see that if he sent a column of infantry and cavalry north from Oberglau to exploit the rout of the Prince Holstein-Beck's Dutch infantry, he might split the two wings of the allied army and set the stage for a French victory.



04 DANGEROUS CROSSING

As Marlborough prepares for his main attack on the middle of the enemy position, allied infantry crosses the Nebel and furnishes protective fire for cavalymen who have dismounted to lead their horses over the stream.

03 PUT TO FLIGHT

French morale plummets when the mounted French Gens d'Armes are defeated by a smaller force of English cavalry. "What? Is it possible? The Gentlemen of France fleeing?" remarks Bavarian Elector Maximilian-Emmanuel, who watched the shocking defeat. Tallard later said the attack was the first indication that his army might lose the battle.

01 STORM OF LEAD

For his diversionary attack on the village of Blenheim, Marlborough gives Lt Gen John Cutts 20 infantry battalions and 15 cavalry squadrons. At 1pm, Cutts' six lines of soldiers advance with little cover, having to endure punishment not only from hundreds of concealed musketeers, but also from a battery of four 24-pounders adjacent to the village. One-third of Rowe's brigade is either killed or wounded in the near-suicidal attack.

07 COVERING FIRE

After Lt Gen Charles Churchill's assault force crosses the Nebel, the cavalry moves in front of the infantry. The infantry battalions leave gaps in their lines so that the cavalry can fall back and reform behind them unhindered.

05 OUTWITTED COMMANDER

Lt Gen Marquis Philippe de Clérambault, the commander of the French infantry posted at Blenheim, crams so many musketeers inside the village that there is no space on the perimeter for many of them to fire at the enemy.

08 UNMATCHED FIREPOWER

Lt Gen Charles Churchill's 18 infantry battalions easily outgun the nine French battalions they encounter on open ground south of the Nebel. The allied infantry enjoy greater firepower because it uses platoon firing, by which platoons fire successively in groups, so that a steady fire is maintained without pause. In contrast, the French line fires in unison with a pause to reload.

ALLIES

infantry
cavalry

FRENCH

infantry
cavalry



Cutts' request, Palmes led his five squadrons of crack horse across the Nebel. Zurlauben immediately counterattacked with all eight of his Gens d'Armes squadrons. Zurlauben sought to envelop Palmes' shorter line, but Palmes perceived the threat and took action. He ordered the squadron on each flank to advance at an angle and then wheel to strike the French flank. The English cavalry executed the move with great skill. Outmanoeuvred, Zurlauben's troopers raced back to the protection of the main line with the English horsemen following closely on their heels.

Both sides had watched the clash of these elite cavalry squadrons with fascination. The outcome for the French was humiliating, and Tallard was deeply unnerved. In the long term, this event's effect on morale was far greater than its minor tactical significance.

Meanwhile, Marsin had deployed 16 battalions of French infantry in Oberglaue. Lieutenant General Prince Karl Rudolf of Württemberg-Neuenstadt led two brigades of Danish cavalry forward in the early afternoon in a half-hearted attack on the village.

As the afternoon wore on, Marlborough feared that the strong French position at Oberglaue might endanger the right flank of his attack on the centre, so he ordered an

Below: John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, is shown in a Victory Tapestry at Blenheim Palace. Marlborough led from the front, issuing orders throughout the day to counter enemy moves that threatened to derail his brilliant battle plan

"IT WAS AT THIS STAGE THAT MARLBOROUGH READIED THE HAMMER BLOW HE WAS PLANNING TO DELIVER TO THE FRENCH ARMY"

infantry attack on the fortified village. At 4pm, Lieutenant General Horn of Marlborough's wing ordered Major General Anton Günther Fürst von Holstein-Beck to lead a division of Dutch foot against Oberglaue.

The French infantry at Oberglaue repulsed the attack, so Marsin ordered one of the four brigades to launch a counterattack. In compliance with these orders, Charles O'Brien, 5th Viscount Clare, led his 1,500-strong Catholic Irish émigrés clad in bright red jackets against Holstein-Beck's wavering infantry. The Irishmen's savage volleys overwhelmed the Dutch attack.

Holstein-Beck cast about for assistance. Seeing 1,000 Imperial cuirassiers sitting idly nearby, he begged their commander, Major General Graf von Fugger, to drive off the Irish. But Fugger's armoured cavalry belonged to Prince Eugene's wing. Fugger said he would only do so if ordered by Prince Eugene. Shortly afterwards, Holstein-Beck was gravely wounded. Marlborough, who seemed to be everywhere at once on his white horse, realised that the right centre was dangerously exposed, and sent a message to Eugene requesting reinforcements. Eugene gave Marlborough control of Fugger's Brigade, and the duke ordered the cavalry commander

to counterattack Marsin's horse. Fugger's cuirassiers gave them cold steel and drove them back.

Marlborough next sent Hanoverian and Hessian regiments to take up a blocking position so that the French at Oberglaue could not disrupt his pending attack. The duke also ordered his artillery chief to redirect his guns against Oberglaue.

Massing forces

It was at this stage that Marlborough readied the hammer blow he was planning to deliver to the French army. In total, he planned to send 22,000 men (14,000 infantry and 8,000 cavalry) against the enemy centre. Lieutenant General Charles Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough's younger brother, would lead the attack, with the men formed in four lines, two of cavalry and two of infantry.

Seven battalions of allied infantry crossed the Nebel at 3pm and formed into a line of battle to cover the crossing of the rest of the assault force. Using the platoon firing system, they shattered Zurlauben's piecemeal cavalry attacks. Once Lieutenant General Churchill's entire force was safely across the Nebel around 4pm, the two lines of cavalry rode through the gaps in the first rank of infantry and reformed.





Images: Alamy, Corbis, Thinkstock

“WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE ONCE IMPRESSIVE FRANCO-BAVARIAN ARMY WAS NOT ENOUGH TO THREATEN VIENNA”

To bolster the allied centre, Blood sent nine field guns across the Nebel.

Zurlauben next deployed all available cavalry against Churchill's much larger force. Despite a valiant effort, the French squadrons could accomplish nothing more than forcing the allied cavalry to temporarily withdraw. During a clash with Lieutenant General Cuno Josua von Bülow's Hanoverian horse, Zurlauben was severely wounded.

Zurlauben was replaced by the Marquis de Humières, but this time the situation was growing desperate for Tallard's wing. By 5.30pm, the nine allied cavalry brigades participating in the main attack on the French centre finally succeeded in driving de Humières' cavalry from the field. Realising his wing was crumbling, Tallard ordered his nine green infantry battalions to hold the low ridge south of the Nebel at all costs.

To their credit, the raw French foot, all of whom had been recruited at the outset of the war, made a good show of themselves. Unfortunately, they were heavily outgunned. The withering fire of Churchill's platoons, aided by Blood's field guns firing canister, opened gaps in the French squares, and the allied horse finished off those not killed by musket or artillery fire.

Once all resistance, save the French infantry within the confines of the village of Blenheim, had been crushed on Tallard's right wing, Churchill ordered one of his cavalry divisions

to wheel right and attack the enemy's left wing. He subsequently ordered another mounted division to wheel left and pursue de Humières' cavalry through the marshes along the Danube.

A Hessian squadron found Tallard near the Danube and took him to Marlborough. Upwards of 3,000 French cavalymen died trying to swim the river.

With Tallard's cavalry driven from the field, Marlborough's infantry was able to complete the encirclement of Clérambault's beleaguered garrison inside Blenheim. To compel the pocket of French infantry to surrender, Blood turned his guns on the village. When the losses were tallied, the French had suffered 20,000 killed and wounded and 14,000 men captured. As for the allies, they lost 6,000 killed and 8,000 wounded. In the wake of the battle, as many as half of the survivors of the Franco-Bavarian army deserted.

What was left of the once impressive Franco-Bavarian army was not enough to threaten Vienna. Marlborough had won a brilliant victory that would be remembered as one of the most decisive battles of modern history.

Right: This memorial to the battle is located in Lutzingen, Germany. It stands at the view point the French convoy would have occupied

Above: A French trooper fires his carbine at a British trooper during a cavalry mêlée at Blenheim

SPANISCHER
ERBEFOLGEKRIEG
SCHLACHT AM
13. AUGUST 1704
AUSSICHTSPLATZ
FÜR DEN BEGLEITROSS
DER FRANZOSEN

Bluffer's Guide GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, 1689-1746

THE JACOBITE RISINGS

Did you know?

Bonnie Prince Charlie pawned his mother's jewellery to pay for weapons and gunpowder for his 1745 invasion attempt

Timeline

13 FEBRUARY 1689



William of Orange and his wife, Mary, who is the eldest daughter of James II/VII, are jointly crowned, after arriving with an invasion force from Holland.

13 FEBRUARY 1692



The chief of Clan MacDonald is slow to pledge allegiance to King William. 38 MacDonalds are massacred at Glencoe by the loyalist Campbell clan.

27 AUGUST 1715



After George I takes the British throne in 1714, the Jacobite Earl of Mar forms an alliance of clans, and then captures the Highlands.

22 DECEMBER 1715



James Stuart, son of the deposed James II/VII, arrives from France, but his timid leadership doesn't inspire the Highlanders, so the uprising collapses.



What was it?

The Jacobite rebellions were a series of five uprisings over a period of almost 60 years. They attempted to restore the Stuart kings to the Scottish, Irish and English thrones, after the Hanoverian dynasty deposed them in 1688. The name 'Jacobite' comes from the Latin form of James, 'Jacobus'.

The first rising was in 1689 when 2,400 Highlanders killed 2,000 Williamite soldiers at the Battle of Killiecrankie. However, the Jacobite leader, Viscount Dundee, was himself killed during the battle's climax. In 1708 there was a much smaller rising against the recent Union of Scotland and England. Then several years later in 1715, George I became king, and 10,000 Jacobite Highlanders rose up against him. The 1719 rising was a diversionary tactic by Spain to keep Britain away from other conflicts in the Mediterranean. The most famous uprising, in 1745, was actually a damp squib. Bonnie Prince Charlie managed to rally an army of 5,000 reluctant Highlanders, but as he marched towards London, the expected support from the English never materialised, and he got no further than Derby.



Why did it happen?

When the Catholic King James II/VII had a son in 1688, it completely changed the line of succession so that his eldest, Protestant daughter, Mary, was no longer the first in line to the throne. In order to avoid a Catholic dynasty, English Protestant nobles invited Mary and her husband, William of Orange, to usurp the monarchy in what later became known as the Glorious Revolution. However, William wasn't all that popular in Scotland, especially in the Highlands. The 1707 Acts of Union, joining England and Scotland, initially created economic depression in Scotland. Meanwhile, William had allowed James to escape with his entire court to France, and James spent his time in exile, continually agitating for revolution back at home. The Catholic monarchies in France, Spain and Rome often regarded the grievances of the Stuarts as an embarrassment, but they were often prepared to support them in order to destabilise their enemy, England.



Who was involved?

John Graham, Viscount Dundee

21 July 1648-27 July 1689

Scottish commander who led the Jacobites to victory at the Battle of Killiecrankie, but was killed during the final charge.



Charles Edward Stuart

31 December 1720-31 January 1788

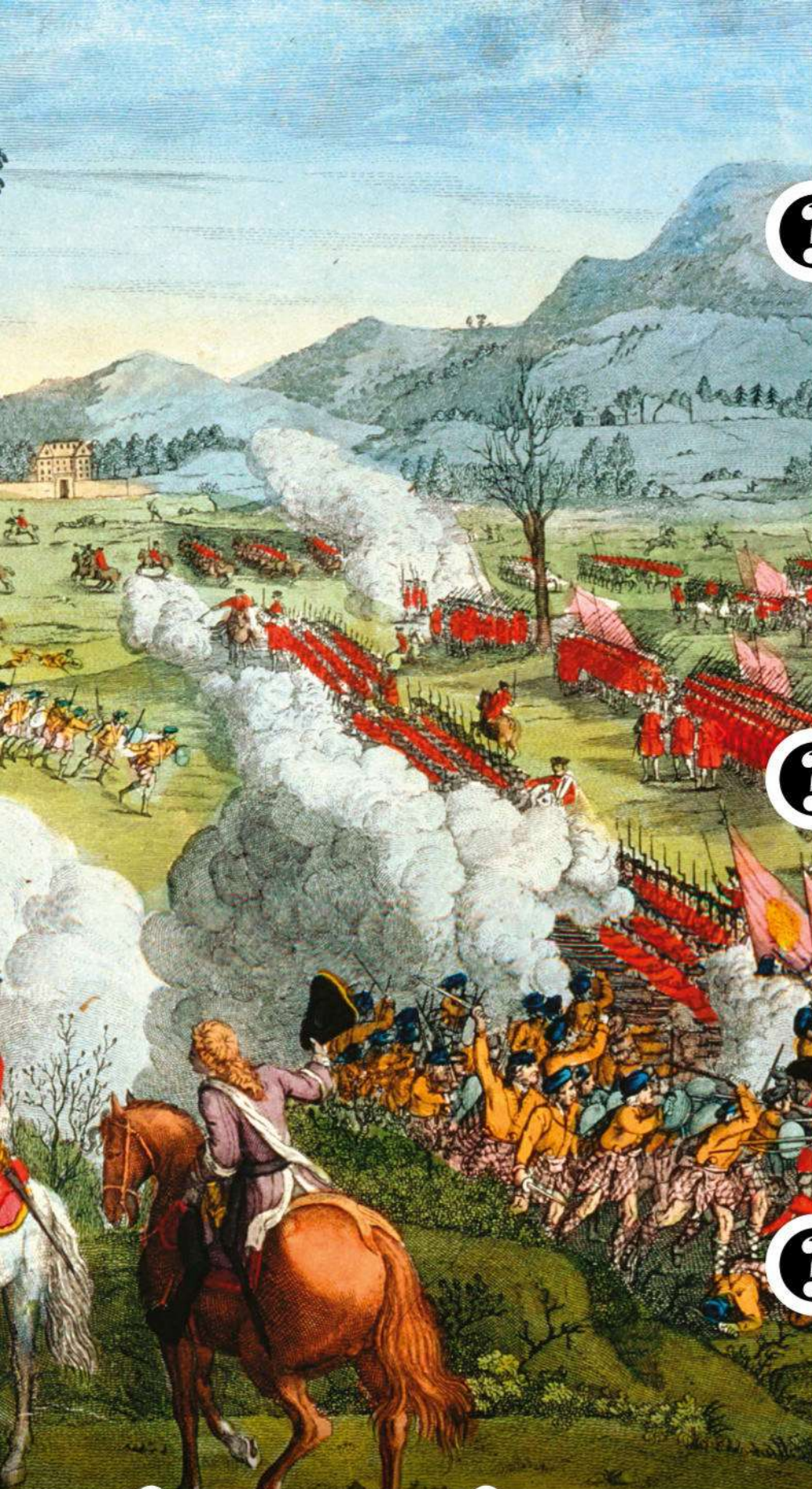
'Bonnie Prince Charlie' was the second Jacobite Pretender to the throne. A charismatic orator, he lacked military skill.



Prince William, Duke of Cumberland

26 April 1721-31 October 1765

Youngest son of George II, he was in charge of British land forces.



23 JULY 1745

18 APRIL 1746



Bonnie Prince Charlie, grandson of James II/VII, sails from France to Scotland and persuades an army of 5000 Highlanders to join him.



Battle of Culloden. Charles' Highlanders are massacred by the Duke of Cumberland's army. The Jacobite hopes ended with the last battle fought in Britain.

REDCOATS IN ACTION

HIGHLAND CHARGE

In the shock tactic of the Jacobite army, the men would throw themselves at the enemy at top speed, brandishing broadswords, shields, pistols and daggers while screaming a war cry. It was intended to intimidate the enemy and get Jacobites into close quarters, where their ferocity could be unleashed.

CLOSE ORDER

In anticipation of the dreaded Highland Charge, Cumberland had drilled his men to combat it. They were instructed to hold their fire until the Jacobites were within effective firing range, fire one volley, and then bayonet the man to the right thereby catching the enemy under their lifted sword arm and bypassing their shield.

END OF AN ERA

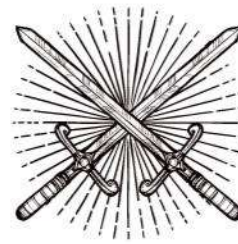
A Jacobite was someone who supported King James VII (of Scotland) and II (of England) and his descendants from the House of Stuart in their claims to the British throne. The word comes from Jacobus, which is Latin for James – therefore, Jacobite means follower of James.

TARTAN

Contrary to popular belief, none of the clans at Culloden wore specific clan tartan. This did not begin until George IV's visit to Scotland in 1822 and the revival of Highland culture. The tartan that was worn would have been differentiated by region, with local materials deciding the colours that were used.

HIGHLAND VS LOWLAND

A common misconception is that the Jacobite Rebellions were conflicts fought between England and Scotland. There were men from both countries on each side, with French and Irish also entering the fray.



THE BATTLE OF CULLODEN

INVERNESS, NORTHERN SCOTLAND
16 APRIL 1746

There were three notable attempts by the descendants of King James VII and II to reclaim the throne of Scotland and England, and they are known as the Jacobite Rebellions. The final attempt was made by the exiled Charles Edward Stuart, better known as the 'Young Pretender' or 'Bonnie Prince Charlie'. With the Austrian Wars of Succession raging in Europe, the Bonnie Prince, the exiled grandson of James VII, saw his opportunity and sailed for Scotland intent on reclaiming what he saw as his birthright. Landing in the Highlands of Scotland with only a handful of men, Charles used the promise of French aid and his own charm to win the nobility of Scotland round to his cause. The Bonnie Prince's standard was raised at Glenfinnan on 19 August 1745; the rebellion against the Hanoverian king George II had begun.

Moving quickly, the Young Pretender soon delivered Edinburgh into Jacobite hands, and would score a decisive defeat over the royal army at the Battle of Prestonpans. Everything was looking up for the young prince as his army marched into England. He hoped that a quick victory would gain him support from the English Jacobites as the majority of the government army were fighting on the continent. They penetrated deep into England and by December had reached Derby, only 125 miles from London. However, lack of support from English Jacobites and pressure from the Duke of Cumberland's force meant that the Bonnie Prince had to withdraw north for fear of losing his army.

On returning to Scotland, the Jacobites again vanquished the government forces at Falkirk

on 17 January 1746. Due to the confusion that followed, however, the Jacobites were not able to capitalise on their victory and the decision was made to withdraw further north. There they would gather their strength over the winter months and the Jacobite campaign would start again in the spring. Hearing of the government's defeat at Falkirk, Cumberland, who had recently returned from campaigning in Europe, raced north to take command of the royal army. The Jacobites' campaign in Scotland had left their forces stretched very thin, so when the Bonnie Prince decided to meet Cumberland for the battle, a move that his advisers warned against, he was not in the strongest position that he could have been.

The two forces met at Culloden Moor, near to Nairn and Inverness, where the boggy ground was unfavourable to the Jacobites who relied on a fierce charge to break their enemies. Cumberland had the advantage in artillery and had drilled his men to face the charge of the Jacobites. It was these, and other factors, that led to the Hanoverian forces completely routing the Jacobites on the field.

After the battle was over, the government forces harried the Jacobites mercilessly across the country. Because of the atrocities that were committed on his orders, the Duke of Cumberland earned himself the name 'Butcher'. Bonnie Prince Charlie, dejected and defeated, would eventually be smuggled out of Scotland to France. While escaping, he sailed to Skye and inspired the popular folk song *The Skye Boat Song*. Europe would be both the prince's and his cause's final resting place; there would never be another Stuart attempt on the throne.



Jacobites

TROOPS 7,000



PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART

LEADER

Grandson to the exiled king James II, the young prince hoped to win the throne back from George II.

Strengths Personal charm and a strong claim to the throne.

Weakness Poor decisions ultimately led to his defeat.



HIGHLANDER

UNIT

With experience in the military and skirmishes with neighbouring clans, these men were tough warriors.

Strengths The devastating Highland Charge.

Weakness Hot-headed and not always willing to follow orders.



BROADSWORD

KEY WEAPON

Although not carried by all Jacobites, the broadsword was lethal in close combat.

Strengths Brutal and deadly in close quarters.

Weakness Its extremely limited range made the wielder vulnerable to musket and cannon fire.

01 TIME TO ENGAGE

With the campaign stretching its forces out across the Highlands, the Jacobite army does not meet the government troops with its full strength. Despite being urged by his advisers to retreat, the Bonnie Prince disregards their advice and pushes on to engage Cumberland's forces on unsuitable ground. With his weaker position, Charles would need to plan well if he had any chance of victory.

02 IN THE BLACK OF NIGHT

Eager to catch the enemy forces flatfooted, the Jacobites plan a bold night raid on the Hanoverian camp. In the pitch black, the two columns that had been dispatched get separated and many men become lost in the rough terrain. Fearing the element of surprise has passed, the officers call the attack off, leaving the deflated, tired and hungry Jacobites to trudge back to their lines.

03 BATTLE LINES DRAWN

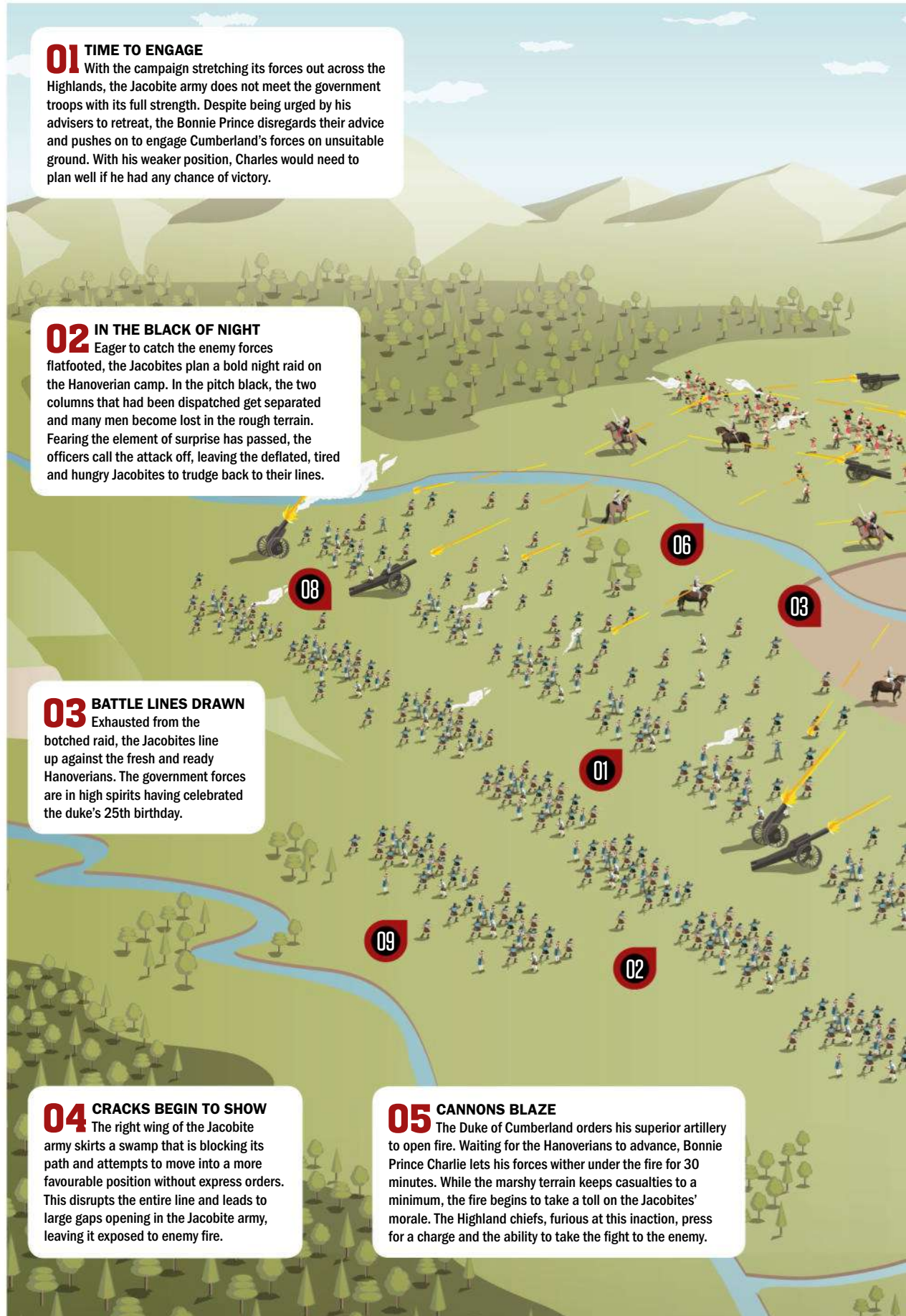
Exhausted from the botched raid, the Jacobites line up against the fresh and ready Hanoverians. The government forces are in high spirits having celebrated the duke's 25th birthday.

04 CRACKS BEGIN TO SHOW

The right wing of the Jacobite army skirts a swamp that is blocking its path and attempts to move into a more favourable position without express orders. This disrupts the entire line and leads to large gaps opening in the Jacobite army, leaving it exposed to enemy fire.

05 CANNONS BLAZE

The Duke of Cumberland orders his superior artillery to open fire. Waiting for the Hanoverians to advance, Bonnie Prince Charlie lets his forces wither under the fire for 30 minutes. While the marshy terrain keeps casualties to a minimum, the fire begins to take a toll on the Jacobites' morale. The Highland chiefs, furious at this inaction, press for a charge and the ability to take the fight to the enemy.



10 SLAUGHTER ON THE BATTLEFIELD

As the smoke clears on the field, the order comes down from Cumberland to execute any wounded Jacobite the government soldiers can find. In the following weeks, a vicious hunt is carried out that sees both Jacobites and locals murdered and imprisoned. This bloody act will earn Cumberland the name 'Butcher'.

09 FALL BACK!

Despite this, and with the Jacobite line crumbling before him, the Bonnie Prince, safe at his vantage point at the rear of the army, calls the retreat. With a rearguard action being fought by the Royal Ecosais and Irish picquets, the Jacobite army retires defeated and bloodied from the field.

08 PRESSING THE ADVANTAGE

Seeing the Jacobites' left flank deteriorating, Cumberland decides to press the advantage. Dragoons are sent in to hound the struggling Jacobites. The boggy ground does not lend itself well to horses, though, and they make slow progress.

07 BREAKING THE LINES

Fierce fighting rages as both sides fight in a vicious mêlée. The ferocious Jacobites are formidable warriors but are held at bay by the disciplined Redcoats. Some of the Jacobites break through the first government line but are met with a nasty surprise. Anticipating the breakthrough, a second line has been drawn up and peppers the Jacobites with musket fire, forcing them to withdraw to their own lines.

06 THE CHARGE BEGINS

The Jacobites rush forward and break upon the government lines in a clash of steel and crack of musket fire. The left flank is lagging behind with the McDonalds rumoured to have declined to charge, insulted that they were not given a better position on the battlefield. This would prove to be a fatal decision, as due to the greater distance they had to cover, they would be cut down by musket and cannon fire.

**Hanoverians****TROOPS** 8,000**DUKE OF CUMBERLAND****LEADER**

Son of the monarch George II, the duke was eager to prove himself on the battlefield.

Strengths Strict discipline ensured his men followed orders.

Weakness His merciless treatment of wounded men earned him enmity in both Scotland and England.

**REDCOAT****UNIT**

Trained to fight as a cohesive unit, the men of the king's regiments were ready to repel the Jacobite rebels.

Strengths Rigid training ensured they fought as a cohesive unit.

Weakness Lacking the individual prowess of a Highland warrior.

MUSKET**KEY WEAPON**

Able to fire three rounds a minute and coming with an attachable bayonet, the musket was a versatile weapon on the battlefield.

Strengths Massed fire could prove deadly to advancing infantry.

Weakness Its bulky nature made it less effective in close quarters.



BRITAIN IN THE REAL FIRST WORLD WAR

Raging from America to India via Europe, the Seven Years' War plunged the world into chaos. By its end one nation would emerge as a global superpower

In the days that followed the Restoration, King Charles II walked a political and military tightrope. The New Model Army, a creation of the Long Parliament and bludgeon of Oliver Cromwell had ironically played a key role in the monarch's return to England and ascent to the English throne.

While the two world wars rightly occupy centre stage when one recalls the bloody conflicts of history, it is often forgotten that the first truly 'world war' erupted in 1756. Enveloping a host of nations, it would claim between 868,000 and 1.4 million lives.

As is often the case in war, the roots of this conflagration are complex, but essentially the Seven Years' War consisted of Britain battling France and Spain while Frederick II's Prussia faced Austria, Sweden, Russia and France.

Following the War of the Austrian Succession (1740–1748), in which Frederick II snatched the region of Silesia from Austria, the sense of scores needing to be settled began to increase. As the tension grew alliances began to form, with France allying itself with Prussia in 1747 and Britain cementing its ties with Austria the following year, with the latter also reaching out to Russia and plotting to exact a bloody revenge on Prussia.

However, not all of these bonds would hold.

When Britain opted to sign an alliance with Prussia in 1756, France and Austria – already warming to one another due to the friendship between Prince von Kaunitz-Rietberg and the French ambassador Etienne Francois – were enraged. On 1 May of the same year the 'wounded' parties signed their own pact: The First Treaty of Versailles.

With the two titans now honour-bound to defend one another, Britain was forced to hastily switch sides. The Diplomatic



Revolution of 1756 had finished its final spin, and now Prussia and Britain found themselves confronted by a list of enemies. War seemed to be inevitable.

Having struggled with France for supremacy of America, Britain desperately hoped war on mainland Europe could be avoided. Unfortunately, this forlorn hope was dashed in August 1756 when Prussia unleashed its forces on Saxony, overrunning the Austrian ally.

The flames of war were lit, and just two months after Britain had been humiliated by the loss of Minorca to a vast French army. Such was the brutal extent of Britain's humbling it was deemed necessary to execute the man who had apparently failed to save it, Admiral John Byng. Still smarting, Britain now found itself bound

Above: The Battle of Kolin, between Austria and Prussia. Frederick the Great's Prussian troops were defeated by the Austrians. The Seven Years' War raged across the globe: Britain and Prussia were at its heart

to defend Prussia, which had compounded its daring seizure of Saxony by storming Bohemia. But it wasn't just honour at stake: Britain's Hanoverian territory would certainly be lost in the event of a Prussian defeat. Action was needed – and quick.

It would come not a moment too soon, for Prussia, which quickly found itself faced with a four-pronged assault from all sides by allied forces from Russia, Sweden, Austria and France. Haemorrhaging men and materials, Frederick II appealed to his ally for any aid that could be given.

Britain responded by deploying a small contingent of troops to Europe to link up with a German force and fight under the Duke of Cumberland. The appointment was a disaster, with the French smashing the Anglo-German host at the Battle of Hastenbeck before forcing Cumberland to sign the Convention of Klosterzeven, an agreement that required Hanover's withdrawal from the war and the





Left: Succeeding his father in 1740, Frederick II transformed Prussia into a formidable fighting force. Napoleon would later pay homage to him at the site of Frederick's burial

ceding of territory to France. Enraged by such flagrant submission, the British Establishment revoked the terms of the treaty, relieved Cumberland of his duties and sent Ferdinand of Brunswick into the fray. Cajoling his men, Brunswick directed a counter-offensive that pushed the French back over the Rhine.



Pride restored, Britain set about creating a government better suited to leading the country through a war. A formidable – if frosty – partnership formed between the Duke of Newcastle and William Pitt the Elder. With the

passing of a Militia Act securing a force that would stay to defend Britain, some regular troops remained in Europe while Pitt unleashed fruitful raids on French territories in West Africa and the West Indies. Britain was back in the game.

However, all was not well. Prior to Prussia igniting the war in Europe, the opportunistic and anti-British Nawab of Bengal, Siraj ud-Daulah, had decided to override his father's allegiance to Britain and capture Fort William. Incarcerating a host of prisoners in a cell that became known as 'the Black Hole of Calcutta', the Francophile Indian leader sought to oust the British from the Bengal region forever.

Yet despite his lofty ambitions, the Nawab was forced to sign a (temporary) peace settlement with the British on 9 February 1757. The Treaty of Alinagar, overseen by Robert Clive of the East India Company, enabled British trade to pass through Bengal without being taxed and allowed the British to fortify Calcutta. Ironically, this 'peace' treaty proved to be a catalyst for the Battle of Plassey on 23 June of the same year.

Seeking to settle the matter once and for all, Siraj ud-Daulah readied an army comprising of 40,000 Indian and French soldiers, a host of war elephants and 50 cannon. While it was a formidable force, it could not compensate for the treachery of both nature and man.

As the British prepared to face an onslaught the clouds began to disgorge a heavy downpour. Clive's men hastily covered their artillery, something the Nawab's men failed to do. Assuming their foes had been equally unprepared, the Indo-French horde unsuspectingly marched into a storm of metal. Combined with the treachery of his close adviser, Mir Jafar, betraying him, Siraj ud-Daulah fled the field on a camel only to be slain by his own men. Britain's hegemony over the region was secure.

“WORRYING NEWS WAS LEAKING OUT OF A PLANNED FRENCH INVASION OF BRITAIN”

THE LIFE OF WILLIAM PITT

Born in November 1708 into a growing line of MPs (both Pitt's father and grandfather were politicians), William Pitt developed into a fiercely intelligent and independent young man.

Studying first at Eton and then Trinity College, Oxford in 1727, Pitt soon decided to further his education in the Dutch city of Utrecht when a severe attack of gout forced him to leave university without finishing his degree.

Now 22 years of age, Pitt opted to join the army in 1730, obtaining a commission (via useful contacts) to become a member of the King's Own Regiment of Horse. Stationed in Northampton for most of his military career, Pitt became increasingly irritated by a lack of action due to Britain's reluctance to engage in foreign conflicts. Little did he know that he would get his war, albeit not while serving as a soldier.

Entering parliament as the representative for Old Sarum in Wiltshire, Pitt swiftly sided with a disenfranchised segment of the Whig party known as the Patriots. In fact, so unafraid was he of speaking his mind that Pitt gained a reputation as a loud critic of the prime minister at the time, Robert Walpole.

Pitt would go on to become a prominent political figure, gaining the title of Earl of Chatham in 1766. Widely credited as the 'father

of the British Empire' due to his astute military decisions playing a pivotal role in the outcome of the Seven Years' War as well as enabling Britain to raid a number of lucrative French territories, Pitt would lead the British government twice. Passing away in 1778 at the age of 69, Pitt had dedicated his life to serving his country, guiding her through various troubles and helping her to become a global powerhouse.



Continuing a political lineage, William Pitt the Elder's son, William Pitt the Younger, also served as prime minister

Yet, in spite of achieving gains at the expense of France in both America and India, the war was going poorly for Britain. Worrying news of a planned French invasion of Britain was leaking out of France. But the tide would soon turn, and France's decision to commit the bulk of its forces to the war in Europe would prove crucial.

William Pitt had held his nerve and maintained a strong British presence in North America, which proved vital in 1758 with the fall of Louisbourg in southeast Canada. This victory was followed by the taking of Quebec. The latter was one of a string of British triumphs

during 1759, a year heralded in Britain as an annus mirabilis (a year of miracles), which had begun with the defeat of French forces laying siege to Madras (now Chennai) in India.

Its dominance in both North America and India cemented, Britain sought to finish the campaign in Europe. The death blow to any French pretensions to knocking Britain out of the war was dealt at the Battle of Minden on 1 August 1759.

An Anglo-German force of 37,000 men and 181 cannons squared up to a Franco-Saxon army numbering 44,000 men and 160 guns by the Weser River. Despite their obvious numerical disadvantage, the men under Ferdinand of Brunswick fought with incredible courage, with the infantry

somehow managing to maintain its shape and repulse wave upon wave of French cavalry. As the French fell back and fled the field they were accompanied by any dreams of a French invasion of Britain.

In 1761, Spain would also fall victim to an increasingly powerful Britain. Apprehensive about Britain's ambitions, Spain readied for a

Left: Wenzel Anton, Prince von Kaunitz-Rietberg, masterminded the Diplomatic Revolution that drew the battle lines for the Seven Years' War

Right: The Lancashire Fusiliers join the fray in the Battle of Minden, a bloody fight that claimed the lives of almost 10,000 men

THE INVASION OF PORTUGAL

With the Seven Year's War in its penultimate year, Spain and France sought to bolster their ranks by forcing Portugal to sever ties with Britain and fight alongside them. Issuing an ultimatum to Lisbon on 1 April 1762, the allies threatened invasion unless Portugal declared war on Britain, barred her ships from Portuguese ports and acquiesced to the presence of 'liberating' Spanish troops.

With her economy in dire straits following the rebuilding of Lisbon in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake in 1755 and only four days to respond, Portugal faced a grave dilemma. Even so, she summoned the courage to reject the terms, boldly declaring war on France and Spain on 18 May 1762. Refusing to return the favour, the rebuffed nations invaded Portugal but refrained from declaring war until June. They shouldn't have bothered.

Fatally underestimating the enemy, the Franco-Spanish forces, numbering 42,000, utterly failed to achieve their objective. Mounting three separate invasions, they hadn't reckoned on the native's ability to wage an unrelenting guerrilla war that cut the invaders supply lines.

Combined with the brilliant leadership of men like the Count of Lippe, who abandoned the borders to wage a successful war in the mountains, Portugal proved a graveyard for both Bourbon ambitions and soldiers. Driven

back in humiliating style, the Spanish and French lost 25,000 men. The British only lost 14 men in action.

In a war known in Portugal as the Fantastic War due to its lack of pitched battles, a nation without an army (with huge British support) harried the invaders all the way back across the border.



The Count of Lippe played a huge role in the defeat of the Franco-Spanish forces. A German born in London, Lippe also became an important military theorist

PRUSSIAN INVASION OF SAXONY AUG 1756

While Frederick II's decision to invade Saxony effectively started the Seven Years' War, with Austria already preparing to strike Prussia, war was already seen as an inevitability. It could be argued that Frederick II simply beat his enemy to starting one.

FORMATION OF NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT 1757

The admittedly icy partnership formed between the Duke of Newcastle and William Pitt the Elder as a result of a new government forming proved to be a crucial step towards eventual victory for Britain, but the war continued poorly for well over a year after the appointments.

BATTLE OF KOLIN 18 JUNE 1757

A decisive Austrian victory over a smaller Prussian force, the Battle of Kolin was Frederick II's first defeat of the war. As a result he had to give up any hope of marching on Vienna and abandon his siege of Prague.

SIEGE OF LOUISBOURG 8 JUNE - 26 JULY 1758

The French finally surrendered Louisbourg following a bitter siege in which they had fought well. The loss proved a fatal blow to France as it directly led to the loss of Quebec and ultimately all of French North America, ending the French presence in the region for good.



clash, not anticipating a pre-emptive strike that blocked the port of Cadiz. While this didn't stop a failed Spanish invasion of Portugal, it was yet another indication of Britain's developing dominance. She was now unstoppable.

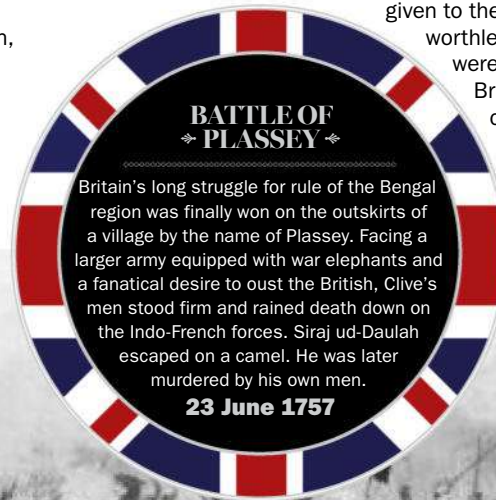
By 1763 the conflict had reached a stalemate between Prussia and Austria. Swathes of Europe had been devastated as territory changed hands in the aftermath of horrendous battles. With all sides running out of energy and funds, peace became a pressing need.

It would come on 10 February 1763 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. France was made

to hand lands in the Caribbean over to Britain, as well as returning the island of Minorca. With her only serious rival rightly humbled, Britain now stood as the preeminent naval power of the day.

Most importantly for Britain, the war planted the seeds of future conflicts, namely the monumental American War of Independence. Aggrieved by the continued presence of British troops in North America, the situation

worsened when the Proclamation of 1763 banned further settlement of certain parts of the country. Prevented from expanding their lands, as well as now finding the plots given to them by the crown worthless, many Americans were disillusioned with British rule. The chasm that would open between the two sides would eventually lead to war.



"PRUSSIA FOUND ITSELF FACED WITH A FOUR-PRONGED ASSAULT FROM ALL SIDES"



BATTLE OF MINDEN 1 AUG 1759

This decisive Allied victory forced the French back to Kassel and crushed any threat they posed to Hanover for a time. Prince Ferdinand lost 2,800 men to a French tally of 7,000. The French also had to abandon any hopes of invading Britain, although this was a plan already wrought with problems.

BATTLE OF WANDIWASH 22 JAN 1760

This pivotal battle in the struggle to dominate India culminated in another British victory. The army of Count de Lally had marched to take the fort at Wandiwash, but they were routed by Sir Eyre Coote's troops in a fight that virtually ended France's dreams of ever holding India.

TREATY OF PARIS 10 FEB 1763

By 1762 it was already evident that the war was drawing to an end. All sides now desired peace, with Britain occupying the strongest position during the negotiations that eventually came in 1763. Seven years of bloody, brutal warfare were finally over, and Britain had gained more than any other belligerent.

BATTLE OF QUIBERON BAY 20 NOV 1759

Fought in the choppy waters of the Bay of Biscay, France saw her fleet crippled for the rest of the war as six ships of the line and 2,500 men were lost in a crushing defeat to the British.



SPANISH-FRENCH FAMILY COMPACT 15 AUG 1761

With informal negotiations between France and Britain having collapsed, King Louis XV of France and King Charles III of Spain confirmed the Pacte de Famille (Family Compact), vowing to fight Britain together. They ultimately achieved little.

THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM

On the morning of 13 September 1759, two armies met on a plain above Québec, Canada, to decide the fate of the country

By 1759 the war had been going badly for the British, with the French seizing the initiative in the early years. It is understandable, therefore, that when King George II found an effective general, in James Wolfe, he pinned his hopes on him. Dismissing mutterings that Wolfe was reckless, he famously declared "Oh! He is mad, is he? Then I wish he would bite some other of my generals."

Wolfe helped to transform British fortunes and mounted a concerted effort to pry the French out of Québec. If the Marquis de Montcalm's army could be defeated, Canada would fall into British hands.

"OH! HE IS MAD, IS HE? THEN I WISH HE WOULD BITE SOME OTHER OF MY GENERALS"

1. THE FOULON ROAD

Wolfe's plan calls for the British light infantry to seize control of the Foulon Road to allow the main army to reach the Plains of Abraham, but the army lands further downstream than intended, putting the entire plan in jeopardy.

2. THE CLIFFSIDE PATH

Around 4am, Colonel William Howe, commanding the light infantry, sends men back along the shoreline to look for the road, while taking the bold decision of leading three companies up a treacherous cliffside path.

3. THE FRENCH PIQUET FALLS

Howe's men attack the French piquet guarding the Foulon Road from behind, securing the route to the Plains of Abraham for the rest of the British army, which quickly advances up the Foulon Road.

4. TAKING THE SAMOS BATTERY

A potentially troublesome French artillery position is also captured by the British light infantry, who then spread out to secure the rear of Wolfe's army as it takes positions along the cliff top.

5. THE MARCH TO THE PLAINS

With the French response slower than expected, Wolfe takes the opportunity to march his men onto the Plains of Abraham, where they form up in line at about 6am. The arrival of more men allows him to strengthen his position.

6. THE FRENCH ARRIVE

The French commander, the Marquis de Montcalm, sees no alternative but to offer battle on the Plains of Abraham and marches his army out to meet the British, with Canadian militia lapping around the left flank of the British line.

7. MONTCALM ATTACKS

Seeing that the British have manhandled two brass cannon onto the plains, fearing that they are entrenching and will soon be too formidable to assault, Montcalm takes the decision to advance at 10am.

8. OPENING SHOTS

The advancing French indulge in scattered and ineffectual fire, while the British wings fire with more effect on the advancing columns. However, the British centre – made up of the 43rd and 47th Foot – reserve their fire until the French are within 37 metres.

9. THE DEATH OF WOLFE

Trying to find a position from where he can effectively observe the battle, Wolfe is exposed to French fire and is shot through the chest. He lives long enough to learn that his men have won the day.

10. THE VOLLEY

Around 450 redcoats of the 43rd and 47th Regiments unleash a devastating volley upon the advancing French, breaking them completely. The battle is effectively over, but both Wolfe and Montcalm have been fatally wounded.

DESTROYING THE FRENCH ATTACK

Wolfe oversees the positioning of his army on the Plains of Abraham

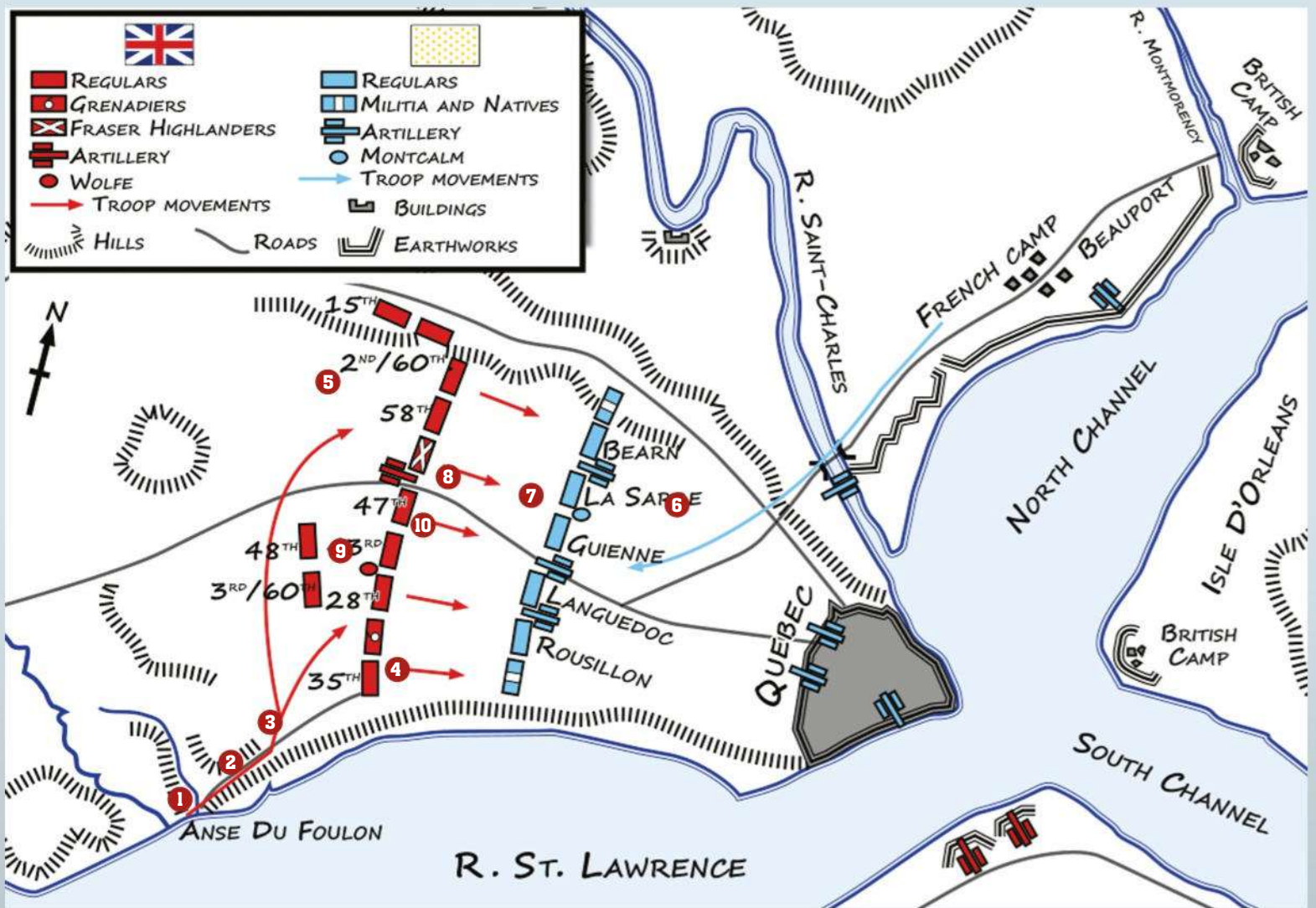


GENERAL WOLFE HAD LONG CONSIDERED METHODS OF DISRUPTING A FRENCH ATTACK IN COLUMN. ON THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM, HIS TACTICS SUCCEEDED BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS

Four years before the fateful battle at Québec, Wolfe had instructed his former regiment, the 20th Foot, on how to deal with a French attack in column. Rather than the entire British line opening fire at the same time, he ordered the wings of the line to fire 'obliquely' upon the enemy, but for the centre of the line to hold its fire until the enemy was closer.

In addition to this, the central units were to load their muskets with two or even three balls, to maximise the effectiveness of their initial volley. Delivered at a murderously close range, such a volley would likely stop an advancing column in its tracks, or at least check its advance momentarily. Wolfe then directed that the centre of the line should retire to the wings, which could wheel to face the stricken column before firing once more or attacking with the bayonet.

At Québec, the 43rd and 47th Regiments did indeed double-load their muskets, but just one volley (described by Captain John Knox of the 43rd as "as remarkable a close and heavy discharge, as I ever saw") was enough to send the French into a headlong retreat and win the battle.



CLAYMORES

The men of the 78th Foot (Fraser's Highlanders), were the only troops allowed to bring their swords with them when they went into battle. While the regulars chased the retreating French with their bayonets, the Highlanders chased them with their broadswords.

GHASTLY WOUNDS

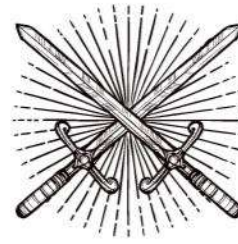
Major General James Wolfe's wrist was shattered during the first French volley. While leading his men in pursuit of the fleeing French he was wounded in the intestines and right chest. The fatal wound to his right chest was probably from canister shot and not a musket round.

ANGELS OF MERCY

Unlike the scene depicted in Anglo-American artist Benjamin West's 1770 painting *The Death Of General Wolfe*, only three individuals – all of whom belonged to the Louisburg Grenadiers – attended the dying commander of the British Army. One was Lieutenant Henry Browne and the other two are unknown.

GRAND ARMADA

The British army was supported by Vice Admiral Charles Saunders' Royal Navy fleet of 49 warships, which included 22 ships with 50 or more guns and 119 transports.



THE BATTLE OF QUEBEC

PLAINS OF ABRAHAM, EASTERN CANADA
13 SEPTEMBER 1759

Perched high above the Saint Lawrence River, the walled capital of New France was a daunting objective for Major General James Wolfe in the summer of 1759.

Since the Royal Navy put ashore the first scarlet-coated regulars on 9 July, the young commander had struggled to get through the multilayered French defences surrounding the 'Gibraltar of North America'.

By that time, the Seven Years' War in the North American theatre had dragged on for four years. In the hope of dealing a death blow to the French war effort across the Atlantic Ocean, British wartime leader, William Pitt, gave the 32-year-old general command of a seaborne invasion via the Saint Lawrence River to capture the objective.

The French, who were led by Major General Louis-Joseph Marquis de Montcalm, easily repulsed a 31 July frontal assault below Quebec. When his subordinates proposed an amphibious landing above Quebec, Wolfe agreed to the plan.

The 4,440-strong invasion force landed under cover of darkness at Anse-au-Foulon three kilometres above the town at 2am on 13 September. When de Montcalm, who was on the opposite side of Quebec, learned at 5am that the British had landed, he led 4,500 French regulars and militia on a forced march to meet the threat. Shortly after daybreak, Wolfe began deploying the first of his 11 battalions on the Plains of Abraham.

When he gazed upon the British army that morning, de Montcalm was rattled by what he

saw. With the town already short on food, he believed he had no recourse but to launch an immediate attack to dislodge the British. With rivers on each side of the peninsula where Quebec was situated, there was no room for manoeuvre. The French would have to make a frontal assault. De Montcalm oversaw the placement of his seven regiments, five of which were regulars and two of which were militia.

The French unfurled their flags and cheered loudly as they stepped off to their attack at 10am. The white-coated troops halted about 115 metres from the British and fired volleys by platoon. While the French regulars reloaded standing, the militiamen lay down to reload. When the French soldiers resumed their advance, their lines were in complete disarray.

Wolfe had issued an order that his soldiers should load an extra round in their muskets to increase their firepower. As the French surged toward the British line, the redcoats in the battalions on each end of the line opened fire at 55 metres. But the soldiers of the veteran 43rd and 47th regiments in the British centre held their fire until the enemy was within 35 metres of their position. The British centre fired a thunderous volley. The British line then advanced a short distance through the curtain of smoke and fired again. After the second volley, the French ran from the field.

Wolfe was fatally wounded and died within the hour, but not before those tending to him told him that the British had won. De Montcalm died the following morning. The French army abandoned Quebec, and the city surrendered five days later.



French

TROOPS 4,500

CANNONS 4



LIEUTENANT GENERAL LOUIS-JOSEPH MARQUIS DE MONTCALM

LEADER

As a professional soldier, he achieved considerable military success campaigning in Europe and during his three years in North America during the conflict.

Strengths De Montcalm was well trained in the conventional tactics of European warfare.

Weakness Impatient and pessimistic, he regularly quarrelled with New France governor Marquis de Vaudreuil.

REGULARS

UNIT

The troupes de terre had high morale and fought well together.

Strengths Well drilled and able to stand up in battle to enemy regulars.

Weakness Under strength as a result of detaching some of the best men in the regiments for various guard and patrol duties.

MODEL 1728 MILITARY MUSKET

KEY WEAPON

The .69-calibre smoothbore, flintlock musket had a slow rate of fire but was deadly if fired in mass by trained regulars.

Strengths Sturdy and lightweight to carry in battle.

Weakness Fired a smaller round than the British Long Land Pattern Musket.



02 ROUT OF FRENCH PICKETS

Lieutenant Colonel William Howe leads three companies of light infantry up the bluffs in advance of the regulars to drive off an outpost of 60 French sentries. The French flee, however, Captain Louis de Vergor has the presence of mind to dispatch a messenger to Lieutenant General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm informing him that the British have arrived in force.

01 PATH TO THE BLUFFS

Wolfe had learned from a former French prisoner of war held in Quebec that a narrow path led from the shoreline at Anse-au-Foulon to the top of the steep bluffs that served as a natural barrier to any amphibious landing. Although his subordinates had envisioned a landing further upriver to cut the French supply line, Wolfe lands close to the city in hopes of forcing a decisive battle.

03 INVITATION TO BATTLE

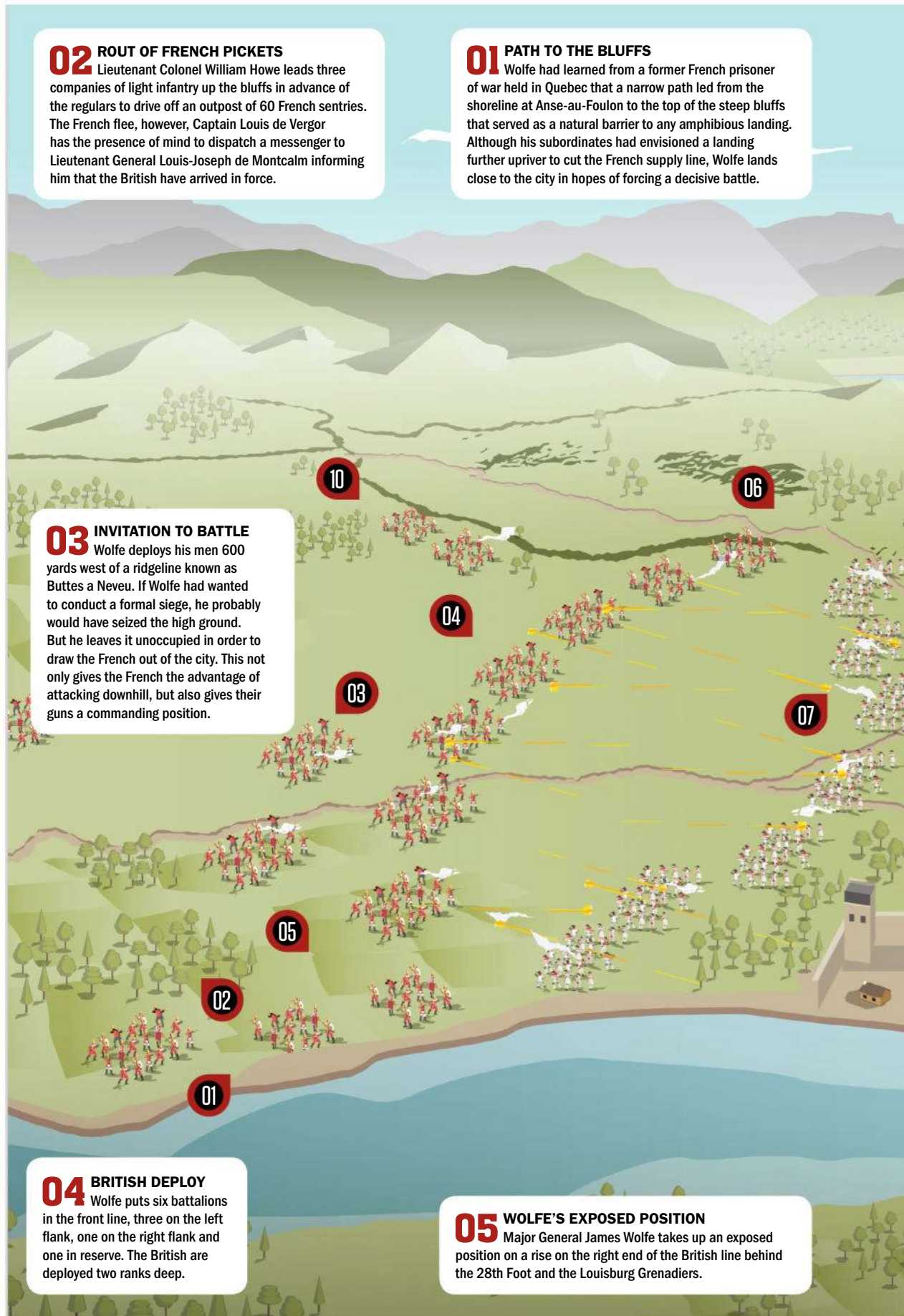
Wolfe deploys his men 600 yards west of a ridgeline known as Buttes à Neveu. If Wolfe had wanted to conduct a formal siege, he probably would have seized the high ground. But he leaves it unoccupied in order to draw the French out of the city. This not only gives the French the advantage of attacking downhill, but also gives their guns a commanding position.

04 BRITISH DEPLOY

Wolfe puts six battalions in the front line, three on the left flank, one on the right flank and one in reserve. The British are deployed two ranks deep.

05 WOLFE'S EXPOSED POSITION

Major General James Wolfe takes up an exposed position on a rise on the right end of the British line behind the 28th Foot and the Louisbourg Grenadiers.



10 Flying column arrives late

De Montcalm had given Colonel Louis Antoine de Bougainville command of a 2,000-man flying column whose mission was to track the movement of the British ships and counter any British landing above Quebec. Bougainville, who was 15 kilometres from Quebec at Cap Rouge on the day of the battle, does not arrive at the Plains of Abraham until the battle is over. He lacked experience leading a large body of troops, which contributed to his poor performance.

09 French escape

Prince Eugene's attack is spearheaded by Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau's Prussians. A Bavarian 'great battery' of 16 guns wreaks havoc on the Prussians, and a counterattack by Bavarian infantry led by Marshal Count Jean Baptist d'Arco drives them across the Nebel. The Prussians lose ten colours in the failed attack.

08 RICOCHETING CANNON BALLS

At 7.30am, the French begin bombarding the British line with four field guns. When British casualties mount, Wolfe orders his men to lie down.

06 HEAVY SKIRMISH

French militia and Indians take up concealed positions opposite the British left flank near the Saint Charles River and harass the British for several hours before the French attack. British snipers take up positions in several houses, one of which is set on fire, probably by French artillery. At the end of the battle, French militia make a rearguard stand to buy time for the regulars to escape.

07 Massed attack

Two regiments of regulars in the centre of the French line – the Bearn and Guyenne – attack in column with the companies stacked one behind the other to give added weight to the charge. The other regiments are deployed in a line that is three ranks deep.

**British****TROOPS** 4,400**CANNONS** 2**MAJOR GENERAL JAMES WOLFE****LEADER**

A gifted tactician, he was the youngest major general in the British army on his first large-scale independent command.

Strengths He led from the front and had the respect and admiration of his soldiers.

Weakness Poor health and an arrogant demeanour that led to his being unable to get along with his subordinate commanders.

GRENADIERS**UNIT**

The grenadiers were the tallest, strongest, and most experienced troops in a battalion of regulars.

Strengths They shared an esprit de corps and were often detached for special missions.

Weakness Prone to follow their impulses, they occasionally flouted orders.

LONG LAND PATTERN MUSKET**KEY WEAPON**

The .75-calibre Brown Bess smoothbore flintlock introduced in the 1730s was ubiquitous in the British ranks.

Strengths Its lead ball weighed nearly an ounce and inflicted terrible wounds.

Weakness It was heavy and cumbersome to carry.



AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

In a war of changing fortunes, both sides experienced exhilarating victories and crushing defeats before the colonies earned their independence



THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

Growing discontent in the colonies erupted into violence on 19 April 1775, when British troops exchanged fire with rebel militia at Lexington and at the North Bridge in Concord, later the same morning.

Lexington and Concord marked the start of hostilities between Britain and her former colonies

19 APRIL 1775

1776

26 DECEMBER 1776

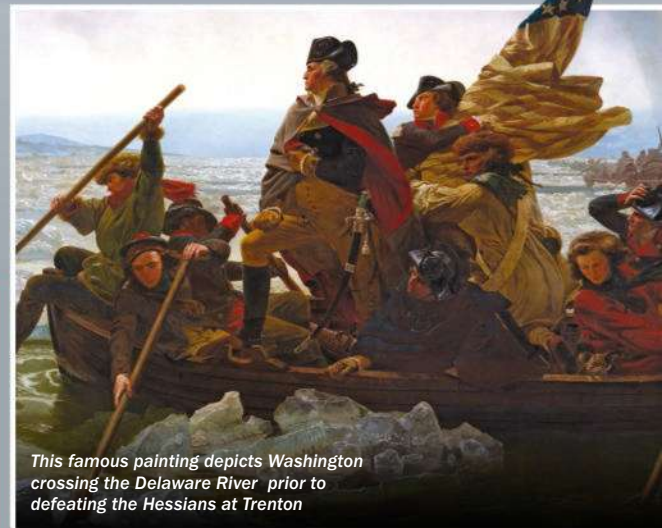
Below: American forces flee from the British assault on Long Island, having been outflanked by Howe's army

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

Forced out of Boston, the British return to take New York in late 1776. George Washington's army proved unable to resist William Howe's forces and the British had the foothold required to begin the suppression of the rebellion.

WASHINGTON'S DESPERATE GAMBLE

After a disastrous 1776 campaign, Washington launches a successful attack on the Hessian garrison at Trenton on 26 December.



This famous painting depicts Washington crossing the Delaware River prior to defeating the Hessians at Trenton

“FRANCE OFFICIALLY DECLARES WAR ON GREAT BRITAIN, AND FRENCH WARSHIPS FINALLY BEGIN TO CHALLENGE THE LONG-HELD BRITISH NAVAL SUPERIORITY IN NORTH AMERICAN WATERS”



THE FRENCH ARE COMING!

In 1778, France officially declares war on Great Britain, and French warships finally begin to challenge the long-held British naval superiority in North American waters.

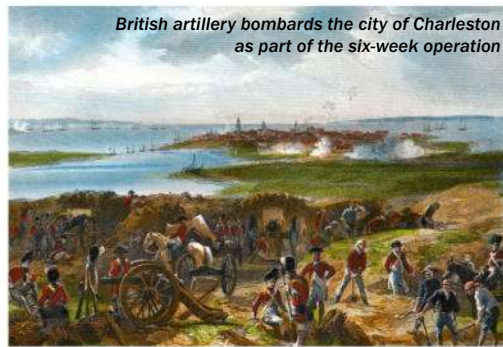
French and British fleets clash at the Battle of the Chesapeake, in 1781, setting the stage for the American victory at Yorktown

‘GENTLEMAN JOHNNY’ BURGoyNE COMES UNSTUCK

In 1777, 6,000 British troops under John Burgoyne are captured at Saratoga while heading south along the Hudson river.

Below: General John Burgoyne offers his sword to General Horatio Gates at Saratoga

British artillery bombards the city of Charleston as part of the six-week operation



THE WAR TURNS SOUTH

After the failure of the Hudson strategy, Britain refocuses its efforts on the southern colonies and the city of Charleston, South Carolina. This city falls to Henry Clinton in May 1780, capturing 5,000 American troops.

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Following Charles Cornwallis's push into North Carolina and Virginia in 1781, he was forced to withdraw to Yorktown, but French intervention cut off this escape route and a combined French/American army eventually forced his humiliating surrender. At this point the war was effectively over.

Images: Corbis

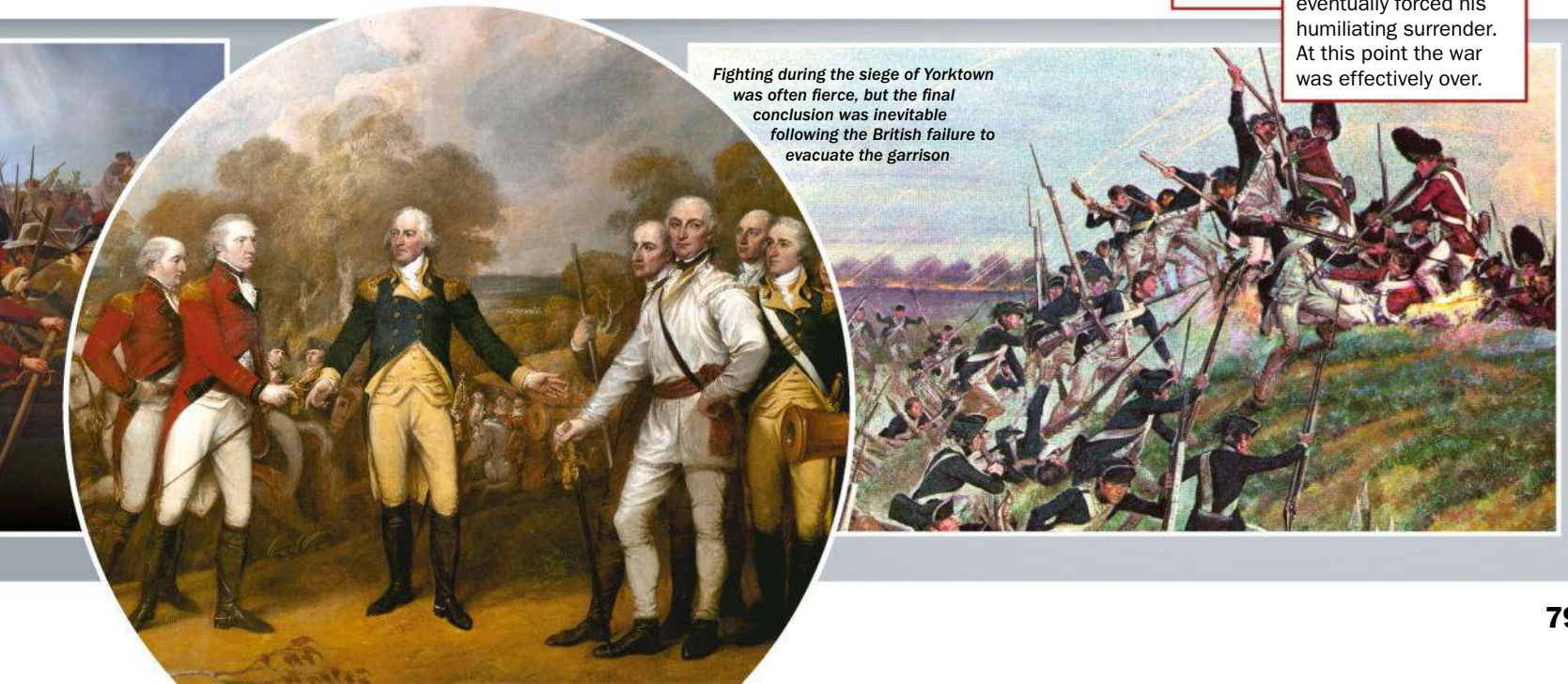
1777

1778

MAY 1780

1781

Fighting during the siege of Yorktown was often fierce, but the final conclusion was inevitable following the British failure to evacuate the garrison



WAR ON THE CONTINENTS

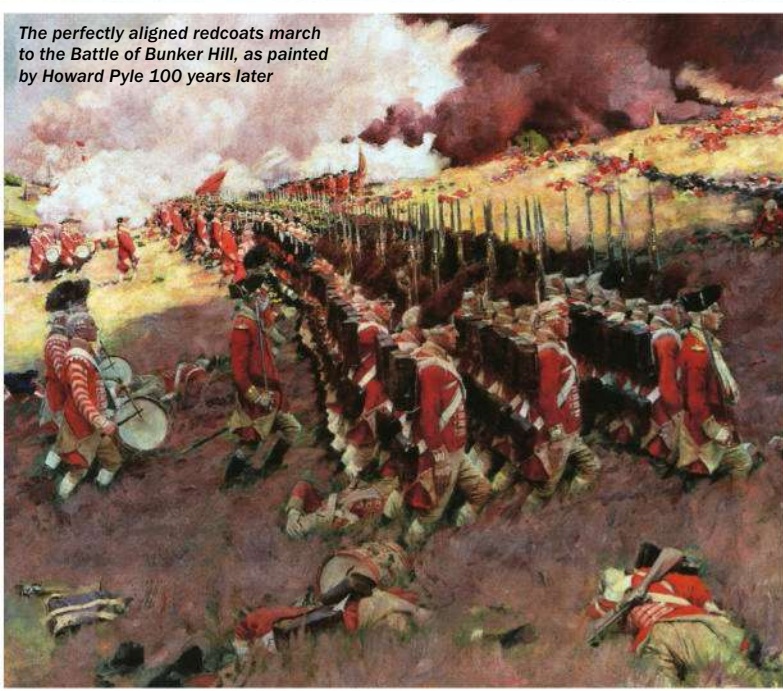
The War of Independence was not simply a private quarrel between Britain and its colonies – it embroiled many other nations as well

1 BUNKER HILL

17 JUNE 1775

American forces occupy a hill overlooking Boston (actually Breed's Hill, rather than Bunker Hill) and it costs the British more than 1,000 casualties to take it back.

The perfectly aligned redcoats march to the Battle of Bunker Hill, as painted by Howard Pyle 100 years later



2 NEW YORK

22 AUGUST–15 SEPTEMBER 1776

The British offensive opens with a typical methodical operation to take the city of New York, which has been extensively fortified by the Americans

3 TRENTON

26 DECEMBER 1776

Perhaps the most significant American victory of the entire war – though small in scale, it revives Patriot morale and shatters the illusion of British invincibility.

4 BRANDYWINE

11 SEPTEMBER 1777

Washington chooses to defend Philadelphia but is once more defeated by Howe, leaving the capital open for the British to occupy just over two weeks later.

5 MONMOUTH COURTHOUSE

28 JUNE 1778

The last major battle in the north, American forces attempt and fail to destroy Henry Clinton's army as it marches from Philadelphia to New York.

PENNSYLVANIA LINE MUTINIES

Date: 1781

Location: Jockey Hollow, New Jersey
Continental infantrymen revolt over conditions and failure to receive pay.

PROCLAMATION OF 1763

Date: 1763

Location: North American colonies
Britain forbids colonial expansion west of the Appalachian Mountains.

VALLEY FORGE

Date: Winter of 1777-78
Location: Philadelphia

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Date: 4 July 1776 Location: Philadelphia

US CONSTITUTION SIGNED

Date: 17 September 1787 Location: Philadelphia

'COMMON SENSE' PUBLISHED

Date: 1776 Location: Philadelphia
Influential pro-independence pamphlet written by Thomas Paine.

THE BOSTON MASSACRE

Date: 5 March 1770 Location: Boston
British troops open fire on a mob in Boston, killing five.

THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

Date: 1774 Location: Boston
Patriots destroy a shipment of East India tea in a protest against taxation.

THE INTOLERABLE ACTS

Date: 1774 Location: Boston
Britain passes a series of acts to punish Massachusetts for its insubordination.

THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Date: 1774 Location: Philadelphia

“JOHN BURGoyNE MOVES HIS ARMY DOWN THE HUDSON TOWARDS ALBANY. HIS EVENTUAL CAPITULATION IS A TURNING POINT IN THE WAR”

6 SARATOGA CAMPAIGN

JUNE–OCTOBER 1777

As part of the Hudson strategy, John Burgoyne moves his army down the Hudson towards Albany. His eventual capitulation is a turning point in the war.

7 SIEGE OF CHARLESTON

1 SEPTEMBER–11 MAY 1780

Britain's new southern strategy opens with a major success, the capture of the important town of Charleston, along with more than 5,000 American soldiers.

8 CAMDEN

16 AUGUST 1780

The last unequivocal triumph of the war for the British. Lord Cornwallis completely destroys the rebel army under Horatio Gates.

The death of De Kalb during the Battle of Camden



“BRITAIN’S NEW SOUTHERN STRATEGY OPENS WITH A MAJOR SUCCESS, THE CAPTURE OF THE IMPORTANT TOWN OF CHARLESTON, ALONG WITH MORE THAN 5,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS”



Left: The British forces are defeated at King's Mountain, resulting in the death of Ferguson

THE OLIVE BRANCH PETITION

Date: 1775 **Location:** London

THE NETHERLANDS JOINS THE WAR

Date: 1780 **Location:** Holland

THE HOWE INQUIRY

Date: 1779 **Location:** London

The British General William Howe attempts to clear his name after failing to end the rebellion.

TREATY OF PARIS

Date: 1783 **Location:** France

Britain recognises the former colonies as free, sovereign and independent states.

SPAIN JOINS THE WAR

Date: 1779 **Location:** Spain

FRANCE DECLARES WAR ON BRITAIN

Date: 1778 **Location:** France

9 KING'S MOUNTAIN

7 OCTOBER 1780

A 1,000-strong British force under Patrick Ferguson is wiped out by rebels, starting the process of weakening the British army in the south.

10 COWPENS

17 JANUARY 1781

Just three months later, the British suffer a second major reverse as Banastre Tarleton's corps is decisively defeated by Daniel Morgan.

11 GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

15 MARCH 1781

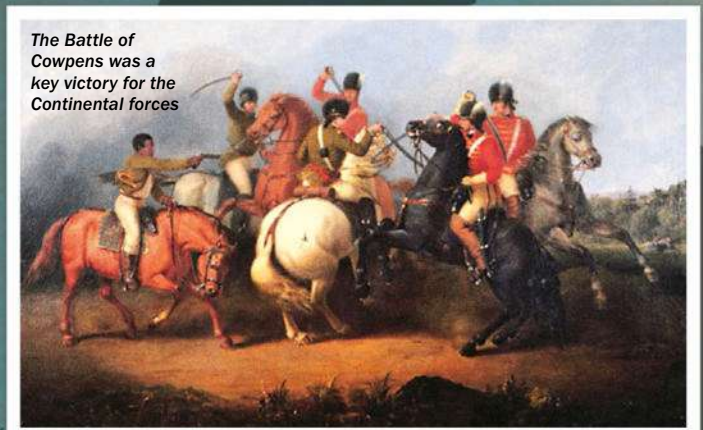
Cornwallis, after chasing the rebel army under Nathanael Greene for weeks, finally catches him, but pays a high price for his victory on the battlefield, losing a quarter of his army.

12 SIEGE OF YORKTOWN

1–19 OCTOBER 1781

Having been forced to retreat to Yorktown, where he hopes to be evacuated by British naval forces, Cornwallis instead finds himself under siege and is finally forced to surrender his entire army.

The Battle of Cowpens was a key victory for the Continental forces



GENERALS ON THE FRONTLINE

The leaders who made the difference between victory and defeat

CHARLES CORNWALLIS

YEARS ACTIVE: 1776-81

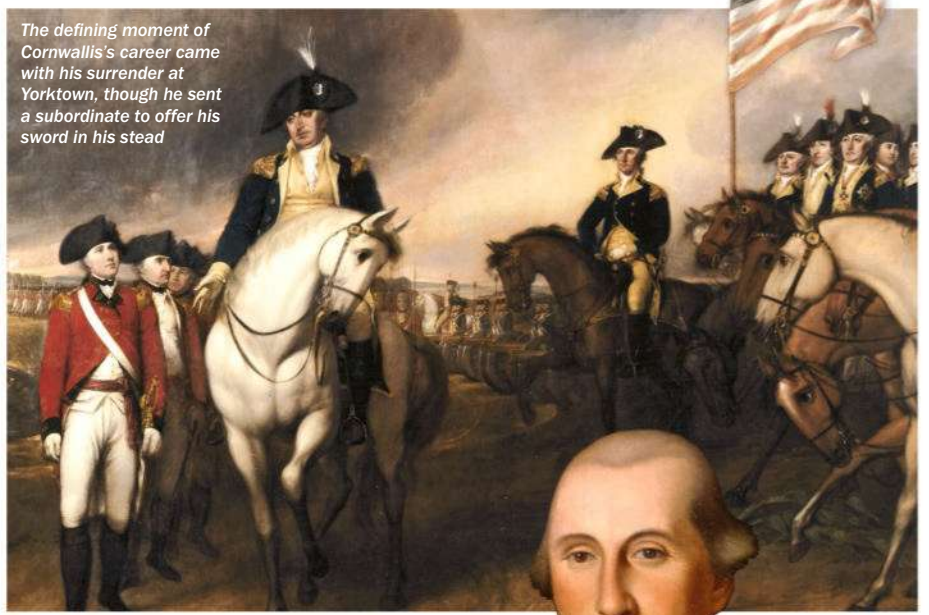
ALLEGIANCE: BRITISH ARMY

Although famous as the man who surrendered at Yorktown, effectively ending the war, Cornwallis deserves to be known for much more. He was an aggressive and thoroughly professional officer and his regiment, the 33rd, was recognised as one of the best in the army.

Cornwallis was beloved by his men and concerned with the wellbeing of the common soldier. This even stretched to other regiments, as demonstrated when he bought a new set of uniforms, out of his own money, for a unit of Hessians.

Having to serve under the plodding Howe early in the war, and under the unpredictable Henry Clinton in the later phases, he was seldom given free rein. When he was granted an independent command he enjoyed both great success, at Camden, and humiliating failure at Yorktown, but his approach to the war (move quickly and hit hard) may well have proved effective had it been employed earlier.

The defining moment of Cornwallis's career came with his surrender at Yorktown, though he sent a subordinate to offer his sword in his stead



Before the Revolution, Washington served as a militia officer, in the French and Indian War

HENRY CLINTON

YEARS ACTIVE: 1775-82

ALLEGIANCE: BRITISH ARMY

Clinton remains a compelling figure thanks to his remarkable character. Pathologically unable to get on with his fellow officers, he was constantly grumbling that nobody would pay any attention to his plans for running the war.

Although it would be easy to dismiss this as self-pity, the

Henry Clinton's greatest failing was an inability to get on with his fellow officers

fascinating fact about Clinton is that his plans were nearly always better than those that were actually employed. He was bolder than Howe and had a more realistic grasp of the necessities of the war. He also seems to have been alone in sensing trouble for Burgoyne in 1777.

Where Clinton let himself down was during his period in overall command, following the resignation of Howe in 1778. Full of bright ideas as a subordinate, Clinton became cautious when responsibility fell on his shoulders and he ended the war in a state of near paralysis at New York, while Cornwallis was bottled up and defeated at Yorktown.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

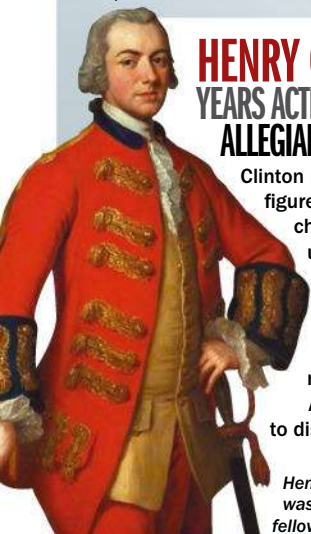
YEARS ACTIVE: 1775-83

ALLEGIANCE: CONTINENTAL ARMY

Having gained experience as a militia officer during the French and Indian War, Washington had credibility as a candidate to command the Continental Army, but he was also seen as a means of unifying the colonies in their struggle. The New Englanders could already be counted on, but the tall Virginian would hopefully encourage the southern colonies as well.

Washington was a naturally aggressive commander, but he had to temper his ambitions due to the inexperienced nature of his army. Nearly destroyed by Howe during fighting around New York in 1776, he reserved his finest action of the war for the very end of that campaign, when he surprised and captured the Hessian garrison at Trenton, New Jersey.

Although limited as a battlefield commander, Washington had the critical ability to keep the core of his army intact, ensuring that the flame of independence was never quite extinguished.



NATHANAEL GREENE

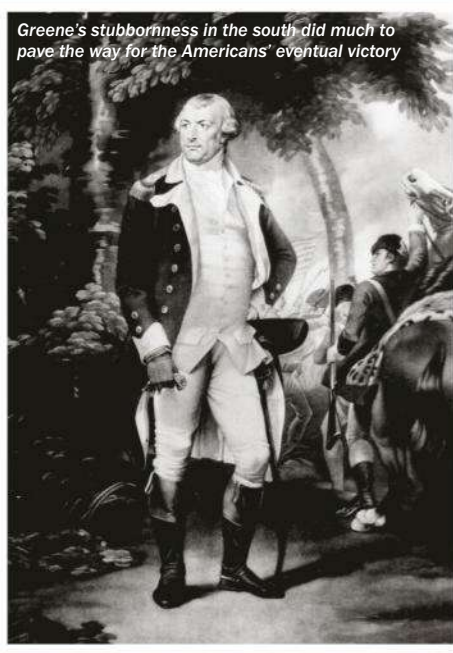
YEARS ACTIVE: 1775-83

ALLEGIANCE: CONTINENTAL ARMY

Greene famously climbed the military ladder, having started as a private in the militia. Although selected to command the American forces on Long Island in 1776, an illness meant he was absent when the British attacked. He was always, however, a favourite of Washington and the commander-in-chief lost no time in nominating Greene when a new general was needed in the southern theatre following the disastrous defeat of Horatio Gates at Camden.

Greene's subsequent performance was in some ways the mirror image of William Howe's. Greene suffered one defeat after another, yet he managed to so weaken the British under Cornwallis that they were forced to retire to Yorktown. Greene's greatest success was in selling Cornwallis a Pyrrhic victory at Guilford Courthouse in 1781 and his attitude was neatly summed up in his comment that: "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again."

Greene's stubbornness in the south did much to pave the way for the Americans' eventual victory



"CHARLES CORNWALLIS EVEN BOUGHT A NEW SET OF UNIFORMS, OUT OF HIS OWN MONEY, FOR A UNIT OF HESSIANS"

WILHELM VON KNYPHAUSEN

YEARS ACTIVE: 1776-82

ALLEGIANCE: HESSIAN FORCES

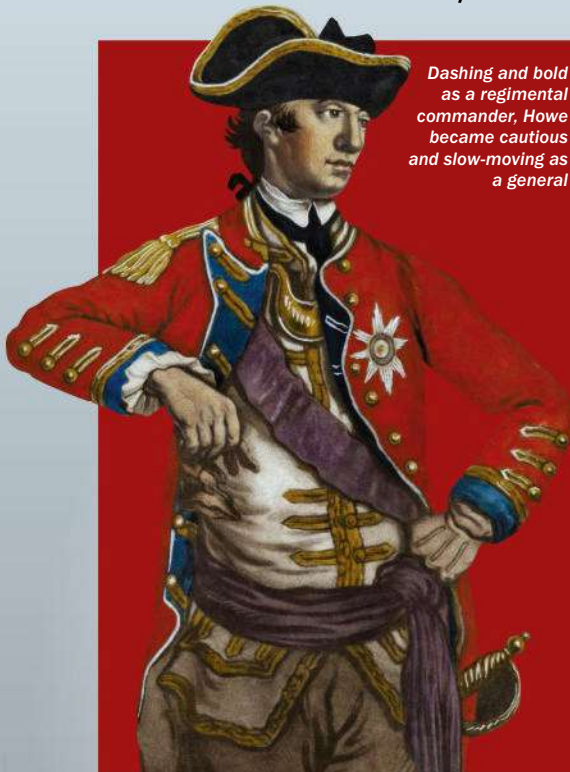
As second-in-command of the Hessian forces that served under William Howe, von Knyphausen was nearing his 60th birthday when he reached the colonies. Despite this, he was favoured by Howe over the even older Leopold Philip von Heister, whom Howe took an instant dislike to.

Co-operation between British and German troops was essential if the war was to go well, but Howe and von Heister were never able to work out an amicable and harmonious relationship.

While von Heister appeared reluctant to order his men into combat, von Knyphausen was perfectly happy to serve. At the storming of Fort Mifflin, just days after his 60th birthday, von Knyphausen led his men from the front, tearing down obstacles with his bare hands. The captured strongpoint was rechristened 'Fort Mifflin' in his honour and, upon the recall of von Heister (demanded by Howe), von Knyphausen assumed command of the German troops.



Although ageing by the time he reached America, von Knyphausen had plenty of fight left in him



Dashing and bold as a regimental commander, Howe became cautious and slow-moving as a general

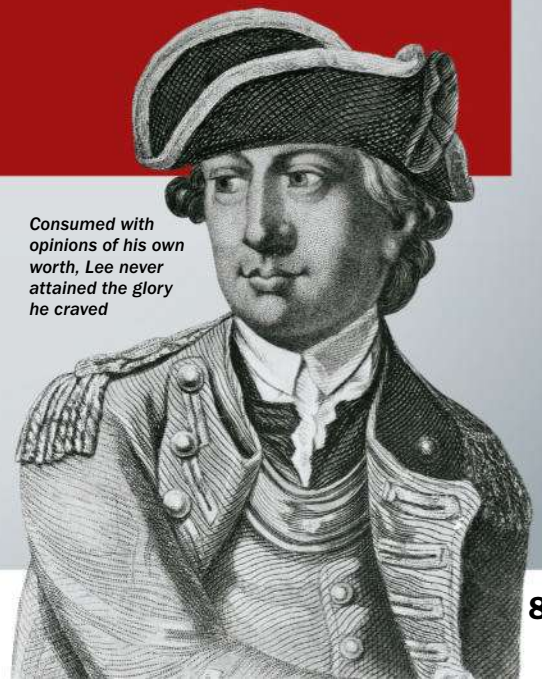
WILLIAM HOWE
YEARS ACTIVE: 1775-78
ALLEGIANCE: BRITISH ARMY

As commander-in-chief of the British Army in North America for the first two campaigns of the War of Independence, William Howe did more to influence the course and outcome of the war than any other British general. Although technically answering to the Secretary of State for the Colonies Lord George Germain, Howe was granted tremendous latitude and was effectively able to do as he pleased.

A veteran of the French and Indian War of 1754-63, Howe was recognised as an authority on light infantry tactics. This sort of experience was considered invaluable by Germain when he hand-picked the general to take command of the army from the ineffectual Thomas Gage. Howe appeared to be clear in his thinking on the war, submitting a simple yet plausible plan (the so-called 'Hudson strategy' that involved the co-operation of two British armies, one moving south from Canada, the other north from New York) and a request for reinforcements that must have struck Germain as more than reasonable.

Eventually opening his first campaign, in August 1776, with an army of about 30,000 men (considerably more than he had requested), Howe proceeded to win a string of indecisive victories. Constantly seeming to be on the verge of knocking the rebel army out of the war, he repeatedly let it slip through his fingers, ensuring that a second campaign would be needed.

Before that campaign had even started, Howe fell out disastrously with Germain over a request for further reinforcements. Thoroughly disenchanted with the war, Howe abandoned the strategy he had suggested and instead expended the entire 1777 campaign on capturing the rebel capital at Philadelphia. It was another indecisive victory and, while he had been focused on Philadelphia, John Burgoyne's army had been captured at Saratoga. Howe resigned his position and returned to Britain to clear his name. He never commanded an army in battle again.



Consumed with opinions of his own worth, Lee never attained the glory he craved

CHARLES LEE

YEARS ACTIVE: 1775-80

ALLEGIANCE: CONTINENTAL ARMY

Charles Lee might have been one of the heroes of the revolution, had his offer to command the rebel army been accepted. As a former British army officer and soldier of fortune (he had risen to the rank of general in the Polish army) he had the experience necessary, but the Americans preferred a home-grown commander-in-chief.

Nevertheless, Lee might still have earned distinction as Washington's de facto second-in-command, but his prickly nature was always a problem. Captured by the British at the end of the 1776 campaign, he was free with his opinions on how the rebels could be defeated, yet returned to the service of the United States when exchanged in 1778.

His last significant act in the war was to engage in a furious argument with Washington on the battlefield at Monmouth. Two years later, he was dismissed from the Continental Army.

WAS BRITISH STRATEGY DOOMED TO FAIL?

Britain's war against the rebels could easily have ended in a victory

Despite the common belief that arrogance and over-confidence played major roles in the loss of the 13 colonies in North America, Britain was actually well aware of how difficult the task of quelling the rebellion would be. There was no hope of conquering America – the territory was too big and available resources too meagre.

At the outbreak of hostilities, the British Army numbered just 45,000 men, spread over a substantial global empire. It would take time to raise new troops and even the hiring of Hessian soldiers would require lengthy negotiations.

The key men in the planning for the war therefore put together a strategy that promised disproportionate results in relation to the effort involved. The plan, which became known as the

'Hudson strategy', involved operations along the Hudson River, running up from New York to Canada. This had always been a strategically important river and it was hoped that by taking control of it, Britain could isolate rebellious New England from the more moderate middle and southern colonies.

By isolating New England from its supply base to the south, it was believed the rebellion could be strangled into submission.

First steps

Two armies were tasked with taking control of the Hudson. The larger, under William Howe, would move up the Hudson from New York, while a smaller army, under Guy Carleton, would move down it from Canada. The plan became somewhat muddled at this point, as it was

unclear whether the two armies were expected to actually meet, or if they were simply to set up various strongholds along the length of the river.

Stage one of the strategy was achieved without difficulty when Howe took control of New York in September 1776, but Carleton's progress was slow and he eventually abandoned his southwards push.

This set the scene for a spectacular breakdown in co-operation between British forces, which doomed the Hudson strategy to failure. With a new commanding officer, John Burgoyne, the northern army again began its push down the Hudson in the next campaign. Burgoyne was confident and bold and he wasn't about to turn back, as Carleton had done.

The problem was, there was no army marching up the Hudson to support him. Howe

"BY ISOLATING NEW ENGLAND FROM ITS SUPPLY BASE TO THE SOUTH, IT WAS BELIEVED THE REBELLION COULD BE STRANGLED INTO SUBMISSION"

The Hudson River, running from New York to Canada, was the focal point of the first British strategy of the war

BRITISH STRATEGY



The Americans won a decisive victory over the British at the Battle of Saratoga

had decided to capture Philadelphia instead and the Secretary of State for the Colonies Lord George Germain had acquiesced in this unilateral abandoning of the agreed strategy.

When Burgoyne ran into difficulties, Howe was not close enough to offer assistance and the result was the loss of an entire army at the Battle of Saratoga.

The southern strategy

Britain needed to rethink its plan, and there followed a period of intense discussion. Finally, a consensus was reached that the war would shift to the south, aiming to re-establish control in the less militant southern colonies. This would have

the same effect of denying the northern colonies their supply base, but would require a smaller army to enact.

This was important, because the entry of France into the war had changed its scale entirely. Britain was actually more concerned now with protecting its West Indies possessions from the French.

Starting in South Carolina, with the capture of Charleston on 11 May 1780, Britain aimed to subdue the southern colonies region by region, raising loyalist forces to keep

the peace while the small British army moved on to the next target. This second British strategy unravelled when the loyalist forces proved unable to match the fiercer Patriot militia. Whenever the British army left an area, resistance would flare up behind it.

The commanding officer in the south, Lord Cornwallis, was also aware that his army was too small to defend any substantial area of territory, so he moved aggressively, targeting any remnants of organised resistance. This worked at the

Battle of Camden, where an American army under Horatio Gates was destroyed, but the momentum could not be maintained without an inevitable and debilitating erosion of his army from sickness, fatigue and battle casualties.

The British war effort eventually simply ran out of steam and ground to a halt at Yorktown. On 19 October 1781, Cornwallis surrendered his battered army to the Americans – the British strategies had failed.

Right: Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga, in October 1777, heralded the abandonment of the Hudson strategy



IN THE RANKS OF THE REVOLUTION

A colourful array of professional and amateur soldiers made their own mark on the war for independence

Although the accepted image of the American Revolution is that of lines of British redcoats facing up to swarms of American riflemen, the truth is that the war required many different types of fighting men. From citizen-soldiers to hired guns, marksmen and disciplined heavy infantry, the battlefields of North America were a scene of great variety.

**“LIGHTLY
EQUIPPED,
THEY HAD TO
BE ABLE TO MOVE
FAST AND OPERATE
INDEPENDENTLY. THEY
WERE THE ELITE TROOPS OF
THE BRITISH ARMY”**

BRITISH LIGHT INFANTRYMAN

THESE UNITS WERE SPECIALLY TRAINED TO OPERATE IN THE RUGGED WILDERNESS OF NORTH AMERICA

Britain's redcoats had a reputation for discipline and doggedness that was well deserved, but in the broken terrain of the American colonies, a different form of infantryman was often required.

This lesson had been learned in the French and Indian War of 1754-63, which saw the British Army create light infantry units to match the Native American and French Canadian irregulars they were fighting. Discipline was still essential, but the light infantryman was also required to be resourceful, self-reliant and able to use his own initiative. They were selected from the fittest, most agile men in the army and operated in companies or composite battalions.

Light infantrymen were not generally asked to fight in the traditional line formations, but instead operated in between the opposing armies. Lightly equipped, they had to be able to move fast and operate independently. They were the elite troops of the British Army.

Left: Light infantrymen adapted their uniforms to make them less cumbersome, including cutting their coats short

AMERICAN MILITIAMAN

UNSTEADY IN A CONVENTIONAL BATTLE LINE, THE AMERICAN MILITIA COULD NEVERTHELESS MAKE A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION IN THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES

Citizen soldiers willing to turn out at short notice when an enemy force threatened their territory, American militiamen were also just as likely to head for home at the most inopportune moment. The weapons they brought to the battlefield were usually their own and their training was brief and rudimentary, but they always had to be accounted for and could tip the balance of a campaign, never more so than when they helped overwhelm the British army under John Burgoyne at Saratoga.

Right: Militiamen were often called 'Minutemen', as they were known for being ready at just a minute's notice



PRIVATE, VOLUNTEERS OF IRELAND

LOYALIST FORCES WERE NEVER FULLY EXPLOITED BY THE BRITISH, BUT THOSE UNITS THAT WERE RAISED PROVED DEPENDABLE

Britain was constantly overestimating loyalist sympathies in the rebellious colonies, while simultaneously failing to properly mobilise the support that was available. Units like the Volunteers of Ireland, commanded by the charismatic Lord Rawdon, proved that they could take their place on the battlefield alongside the regular British soldiers. Equipped as well as their redcoat comrades, and viewed as a full-time 'provincial' unit, the Volunteers of Ireland performed with great distinction in the southern theatre, especially at the Battle of Camden in 1780.

Right: The privates of the Volunteers of Ireland dressed in traditional redcoat uniform



MUSKETEER, HESSIAN REGIMENT PRINZ CARL

HIRED FROM A NUMBER OF GERMAN PRINCIPALITIES, THE TROOPS KNOWN COLLECTIVELY AS 'HESSIANS' HAD A TERRIFYING REPUTATION

The notion that Britain had a huge army at the start of the War of Independence is nothing more than a myth, and in order to raise a big enough force to tackle the rebels, German soldiers had to be hired. From various principalities, including Hesse-Cassel, the soldiers were known collectively as 'Hessians'. Disciplined and stern, and rumoured to favour the bayonet, the rebels were terrified of them in the initial stages of the war, but soon learned that they were just men after all.

Left: Hessians were sent in entire units along with their usual uniforms, flags, equipment, and officers



AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

THE REPUTATION OF THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN CAUSED MORE THAN A FEW SLEEPLESS NIGHTS FOR THE REDCOATS THAT WOULD FACE THEM

The accuracy of American sharpshooters is one of the enduring legends of the war. It is far from a myth, because British officers learned to dread the distinctive buzzing noise of a rifle bullet whizzing past their ears. The American riflemen focused their attentions on officers, often picking them off at long range and effectively decapitating British units, but they were also vulnerable to British light infantrymen, due to the extraordinary amount of time (several minutes) it took to reload their long rifles.

"THE AMERICAN RIFLEMEN FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTIONS ON OFFICERS, OFTEN PICKING THEM OFF AT LONG RANGE AND EFFECTIVELY DECAPITATING BRITISH UNITS"



HEAD TO HEAD

If the Americans were to win their independence, they would need to match the British redcoat. The Continental infantryman was their response

BRITISH INFANTRYMAN (REDCOAT)

LOYALTY: GREAT BRITAIN

TRAINING

The redcoat was drilled thoroughly during initial training, but any further training was at the whim of the officer of each regiment. Real experience was gained on the battlefield.

DISCIPLINE

British infantry had a reputation for holding their ground whatever the enemy threw at them, but there was a worrying streak of reckless over-confidence in some units at the start of the war.

ARMAMENT

The famed 'Brown Bess' musket was a dependable if unspectacular weapon. Fired in massed volleys, it was inaccurate but had formidable stopping power when its heavy bullet found a target.

SUPPLY

Although at the end of a supply chain stretching more than 3,000 miles, the British redcoat had ample resources to draw from. Camp equipment, tents and armaments were adequate, though food was often appalling.

MOTIVATION

Esprit de Corps was strong in most British regiments, but fighting at such a distance from home and against people viewed mainly as fellow Englishmen was a negative influence.

TOTAL



LEGENDARY COMPANY

Recruitment of new soldiers was a major problem for the British throughout the war, not least because the regular army was in competition for recruits with the private army of the East India Company. The knowledge that reinforcements would be limited and slow to arrive made British generals cautious about risking their men in battle. It was often said that numbers were so scarce that the British could not even afford a victory. Costly engagements, like those at Bunker Hill and Guilford Courthouse, proved how true this was.



Left: At the Battle of Bunker Hill, the British eventually prevailed, but suffered more than 1,000 casualties



INEXPERIENCED COMPETITION

Although the story of the Continental infantryman is generally one of ineffectiveness gradually being replaced by experience and resilience, some units distinguished themselves from the very start of the war. On Long Island, in August 1776, men of the Delaware and Maryland Regiments performed as well as the redcoats and Hessians they were opposing. The proud history of these units was only enhanced as the war progressed and they were still serving with exemplary courage at the Battle of Camden in 1780.



Left: The Delaware Regiment performed admirably at the Battle of Long Island, 27 August 1776

“ESPRIT DE CORPS WAS STRONG IN MOST BRITISH REGIMENTS, BUT FIGHTING AT SUCH A DISTANCE FROM HOME AND AGAINST PEOPLE VIEWED MAINLY AS FELLOW ENGLISHMEN WAS A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE”

CONTINENTAL INFANTRYMAN

LOYALTY: THE UNITED STATES

TRAINING

★ The Americans had to learn on the job, as the vast majority had been private citizens before the war. The experience of the few former European officers in their fledgling army would prove invaluable.

DISCIPLINE

★ Although not initially as resilient on the battlefield, the Americans improved quickly and their best units were more than a match for the redcoats by the end of the war.

ARMAMENT

★ Large numbers of French ‘Charleville’ muskets helped equip the rebel soldiers, but many also made do with their own muskets or rifles. Thousands of firearms were lost when American soldiers fled during early engagements.

SUPPLY

★ Although fighting on ‘home ground’, the Continental Army was woefully neglected by Congress. Often ill-equipped, seldom paid and sometimes close to starvation, only their remarkable resilience kept an army in the field.

MOTIVATION

★ The added incentive of defending their homeland, plus the privations endured in the opening campaigns of the war (notably during the terrible winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge), forged a grim determination in the American soldier.

TOTAL



“ON LONG ISLAND, IN AUGUST 1776, MEN OF THE DELAWARE AND MARYLAND REGIMENTS PERFORMED AS WELL AS THE REDCOATS AND HESSIANS THEY WERE OPPOSING”



BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND

The first major battle of the war was also one of the largest, and it saw the British win a stunning victory

Possession of New York was essential if the British were going to gain control over the Hudson River and implement their chosen strategy for the war. The Americans realised this as well and spent months preparing their defences, both on Manhattan (also known as York Island) and Long Island.

The British commander, William Howe, had been in no hurry to open his campaign, but he finally landed forces on Long Island on 22 August 1776. Five days later, he was ready to attack.

“WASHINGTON’S ARMY WAS RIDDLED WITH CAMP DISEASES AND MANY MEN WERE UNABLE TO SERVE WITH THEIR REGIMENTS WHEN THE LONG-AWAITED BRITISH OFFENSIVE FINALLY BEGAN”

1. THE BROOKLYN LINES

The main American defensive works on Long Island comprises five forts or redoubts, with connecting trenches, strung across the neck of the Brooklyn peninsula. The Americans hope to inflict serious casualties when the British attack.

2. THE GOWANUS HEIGHTS

An advanced defensive line occupies a ridge of thickly wooded high ground running across the island. Three routes through the Gowanus Heights are defended with infantry and artillery units.

3. THE UNGUARDED PASS

Bafflingly, the Americans fail to defend a fourth route through the Gowanus Heights – the Jamaica Pass – perhaps hoping it is so far away the British will not be aware of it.

4. THE FLANKING MARCH

The British are aware of this route (Henry Clinton, Howe’s second-in-command, had lived on Long Island as a boy) and mount a night-time flanking march with the intention of getting 10,000 redcoats behind the first American defensive line

5. THE DIVERSION

To occupy the Americans’ attention while the flanking march is undertaken, Howe orders General James Grant to stage a diversionary assault against defenders along the Coast Road. This also serves to draw reinforcements away from the Brooklyn lines.

6. THE SIGNAL CANNON

At 9am on 27 August, two cannon shots are fired. This is the signal that Howe’s flanking column has reached Bedford and the assault on the Gowanus Heights positions can begin in earnest.

7. THE RETREAT TO THE LINES

With their position untenable, the Americans flee from the Gowanus Heights and flood back to the Brooklyn defences. Many do not make it as British and Hessian forces attack them front and rear.

8. THE STAND OF THE MARYLANDERS

To buy time for their comrades to escape across marshland, a portion of the Maryland Regiment stage a delaying action against overwhelming British numbers. Less than a dozen of them escape death, injury or capture, but their sacrifice allows hundreds to escape.

9. THE RECALL

With the British in full cry, Howe calls back an attempted assault on the main Brooklyn lines, choosing instead to open siege works. He will later cite a desire to limit casualties as the reason for his controversial decision.

10. THE AMERICAN RETREAT

Two nights later, under cover of darkness, Washington is able to evacuate his entire command, along with all of their artillery. Although the Americans consider this to have been a humiliating defeat, their army has survived to fight another day.

AMERICAN LOSSES

IT WAS ONCE BELIEVED THAT A MASSACRE HAD PLAYED OUT ALONG THE GOWANUS HEIGHTS, BUT AMERICAN LOSSES ARE NOW THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN FAR FEWER

It is almost impossible to be sure of American casualties during the Battle of Long Island, because there is so much confusion over the strength of units in battle that day.

Washington’s army was riddled with camp diseases and many men were unable to serve with their regiments when the long-awaited British offensive finally began. Add to this confusion over the paper strength of regiments, and it is unclear exactly how many men were manning the Gowanus Heights.

The British also inflated the numbers of dead, wounded and captured, possibly as a simple result of the confusion of the battle, but possibly for propaganda purposes.

There was also an unpleasant streak of relish in British reports, with one officer gloating over the fact that the Hessians had been particularly merciless in their use of the bayonet, suggesting that even men attempting to surrender had been run through.

Howe’s initial battle report claimed more than 3,000 Americans were either captured or killed, but recent research suggests the number was more like 1,000.

It was still a significant blow for an army to sustain in its first pitched battle and Washington’s men were badly shaken, with many deserting in the days that followed.



Although badly mauled on Long Island, the bulk of Washington’s army escaped over the East River to Manhattan



BATTLE OF FORT WASHINGTON

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 1776

With the Continental Army reeling, the British and their German mercenary allies began an assault on the gateway to the Hudson River: Fort Washington

After the inconclusive Battle of the Clouds, George Washington and his Continental Army had retreated to New Jersey. The British, bolstered in strength by a band of 3,000 German Hessian mercenaries, were ready for an all-out assault on Fort Mifflin. Aware of the coming storm, George Washington finally made his escape.

However, Colonel Robert Magaw stood firm within the fortifications, determined to deny the British and the Royal Navy access to the Hudson River. The Hessians had served as auxiliaries in the British Army for decades and their role as an elite force was about to be tested yet again.

1 RETREAT TO THE FORT

After fighting with conviction at the Battle of the Clouds, the Hessian mercenaries once again join the 8,000-strong British Army for the coming assault on Fort Mifflin. The fort is guarded by 3,000 Americans ready and waiting for the attack.

2 A DESERTER REVEALS ALL

An American deserter called William Demont reveals the layout of the fort to the British, including its strengths and weaknesses. Armed with this knowledge, the Hessians take up position in the south-east of the stronghold and await the signal to attack.

3 ARTILLERY BARRAGE AND ENCIRCLEMENT

The fort is a five-sided earthwork with 34 great guns, so it has to be tackled with great caution. The fort soon becomes surrounded overnight from the west, south and east by field guns, mortars and howitzers.

4 NO SURRENDER!

Meanwhile, within the fort the American camp is debating whether or not to concede defeat. George Washington may have retreated to Fort Mifflin, but Colonel Robert Magaw refuses to surrender and fully believes the fort will stand firm.

5 TWILIGHT ADVANCE

The Hessians, led by General Wilhelm Von Knyphausen and Colonel Johann Rall, cross the river in some small boats

under the protective cover of darkness. They lie covertly in wait on the shoreline until the early hours of the morning eventually arrive.

6 THE RISING TIDE

The assault is delayed as the Hessians are forced to wait for the right tide to let them move further. They are stuck in the Kingsbridge area of Manhattan for a number of hours until the next day.

7 HESSIAN LANDING IN MANHATTAN

On the morning of Saturday 16 November, Von Knyphausen's force finally lands and engages the Continentals. The initial exchanges are purely artillery based as the mercenaries are supported by fire from HMS Pearl.

8 KNYPHAUSEN TAKES THE OFFENSIVE

At midday the Hessians are joined on the eastern flank by two divisions of British forces. As the pincer movement tightens on the fort, the defensive guns are brought down and the walls scaled. Upon seeing the Hessians swarm into the fortress, Magaw surrenders.

9 RETREAT TO DELAWARE

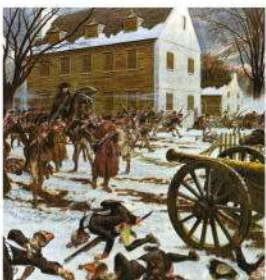
3,000 American soldiers are captured along with 43 cannons and supplies. The rest of the Continental Army retreats to Fort Mifflin and Delaware to fight another day. 320 Hessians have died in the battle, as they proved their worth once again.

“COLONEL ROBERT MAGAW STOOD FIRM WITHIN THE FORTIFICATIONS, DETERMINED TO DENY THE BRITISH AND THE ROYAL NAVY ACCESS TO THE HUDSON RIVER”

HESSIANS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

BATTLE OF TRENTON 26 DECEMBER, 1776

This battle was a resounding victory for the Patriots, who caught the Hessian forces off-guard. Hero of Fort Mifflin, Colonel Rall, was killed and 1,000 of the mercenaries were captured.



BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND 27 AUGUST, 1776

The British began the war with a streak of victories. One of the most important was Long Island, where they gained control of New York. Thousands of Hessians fought yet only five were killed.



BATTLE OF WHITE PLAINS 28 OCTOBER, 1776

The New York and New Jersey campaign saw a lot of bitter fighting early on in the war. Although considered a draw, the Hessians proved their worth again in an advance on Chatterton's Hill.

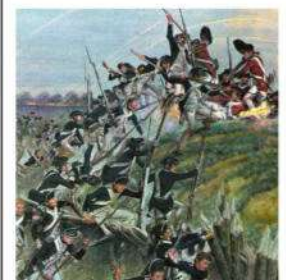
BATTLE OF RED BANK 22 OCTOBER, 1777

Fuelled by the anger over Trenton, a Hessian force was sent to capture Fort Mifflin on the Delaware River. The huge ramparts of the fort withstood the attack and the German mercenaries were routed.



SIEGE OF YORKTOWN SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 19, 1781

The final battle of the war. Despite the loss, the Hessian Jaegers used tactics that would be replicated by the new British regiments of riflemen that were formed after the war.





Time Traveller's Handbook

PENINSULAR WAR

Iberian Peninsular, 1807-14

Led by its brilliant and daring Emperor, Napoleon, France has forged its way through Europe, crushing foe after foe. Austria, Prussia and Russia have been all but destroyed through Napoleon's victories in countless battles. Only one country has managed to withstand France's power: Britain. Victory at Trafalgar has driven the French and Spanish invasion of the country

back. However, Britain will not be standing alone for very long. Bolstered by his success, Napoleon has usurped the Spanish throne for his own brother, and prompted an uprising in Spain. Seeing a chance of a new ally, Britain has sent its own force to the Iberian Peninsula, determined to team up with an old enemy in order to stop the conquering of an even older one for good.



FIG.01

WHERE TO STAY

Initially, Portugal was invaded and occupied by the French-Spanish coalition, and conditions there were harsh and dangerous. As Portugal is Britain's oldest ally, this angered the nation, and in late 1808, Britain drove back the French. From then on it has become a relatively safe base from which to launch campaigns against the emperor's forces, while also providing supplies to the Spanish. Wellesley is aware of how important Portugal is, defending it with scorched earth and impregnable fort defences known as the Lines of Torres Vedras. Closely guarded and defended, it's by far the safest place to stay in the midst of this bloody war.

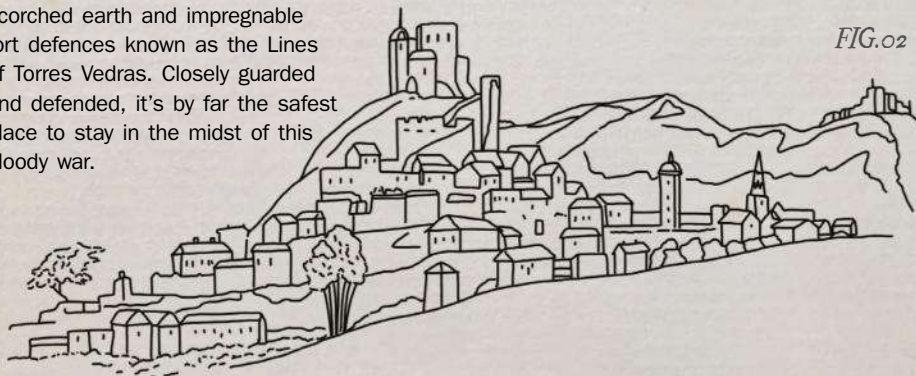


FIG.02

Dos & don'ts

☒ **Ration your food.** Supplies are vital to war in this barren landscape, and lack of food could destroy an army before it even faces an enemy.

☒ **Pick up a pen.** This is one of the first wars where soldiers are able to correspond with their families on a wide scale. Some soldiers' letters have even been published in newspapers.

☒ **Get used to sleeping out in the open.** The common infantry soldier only has a blanket or greatcoat for warmth; the luxury of a tent is solely reserved for officers.

☒ **Be wary of guerrillas.** Although guerrillas are technically allies, they are also known for looting their own countrymen, so be on guard.

☐ **Expect memorials for the dead or victory parades.** Soldiers who survive the war will return to a minuscule pension and little care for the wounded.

☐ **Believe the rumours that the French are invincible.** This will turn out to be the first major conflict that proves that rumour to be wrong.

☐ **Forget to check the spoils of the battlefield.** After being defeated at Vitoria, Joseph fled so quickly that he left all his personal effects, 12 miles of carriages, and even his chamber pot.

☐ **Take the easy route.** Wellesley uses rivers, secret fords and even traversed mountains to gain the upper hand on his unsuspecting foes.

WHO TO BEFRIEND

Arthur Wellesley

Soon to be better known as the Duke of Wellington, this young, up-and-coming British commander has already led the army to victories in the field, and is a force to be reckoned with. Pioneering and extremely intelligent, the commander has brought several innovations to his infantry, including dividing it into autonomous divisions and adding battalions of Portuguese infantry. Steadily gaining respect and popularity due to his dashing good looks, in war it is always wise to befriend a winner – and Wellesley reeks of victory. Be warned, he is famously sharp, disciplined and stern; winning his respect will take time, patience and a great deal of perseverance.

Extra tip: A huge advantage when befriendng Wellesley is being upper class or highly ranked. There are many anecdotes of the commander displaying somewhat condescending behaviour to those less competent, and he very rarely speaks to servants. However, he also cares greatly for his men, sobbing upon witnessing the British dead, and refusing to put his troops in unnecessary danger.

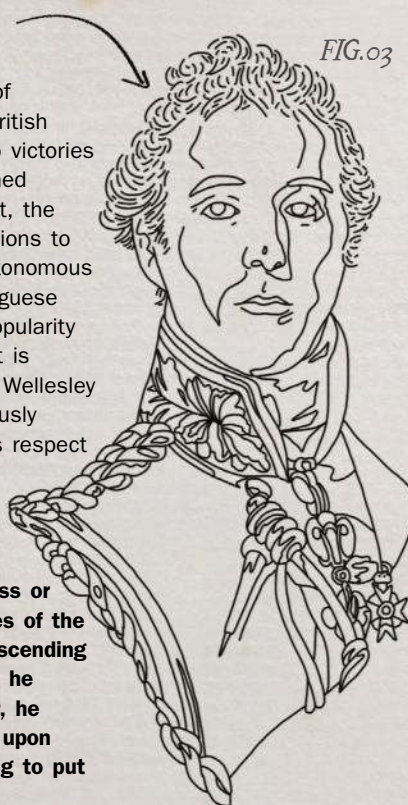


FIG.03

WHO TO AVOID

Joseph Bonaparte

Although his surname may summon impressive images, Joseph himself is far weaker and milder than his younger brother, Napoleon. Nobody wanted Joseph to be king of Spain, not the Catholic Spanish population and not Joseph himself. Feeling entirely unwelcome, he even attempted to abdicate, which his brother refused and forced the crown back on his head. Although he is in command of the French forces, this is an illusion; in reality the French commanders answer only to his famous brother, and Joseph serves as little more than a throne warmer. Weak, ineffectual and disliked, befriendng the 'king' will do you few favours here.

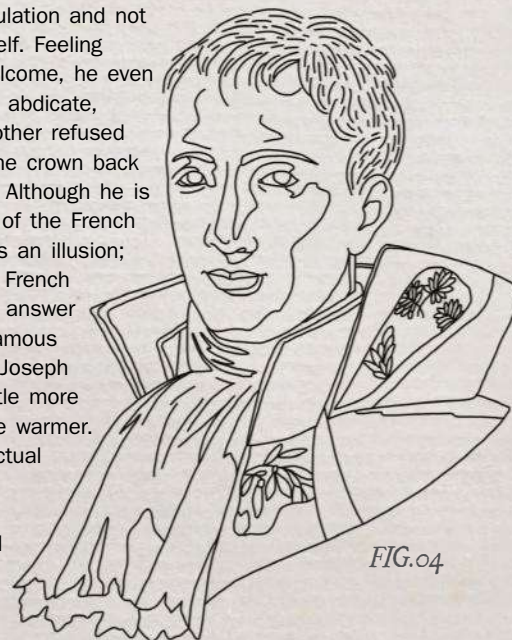


FIG.04

Helpful skills

In a transforming country, these skills will ensure you keep up with the times

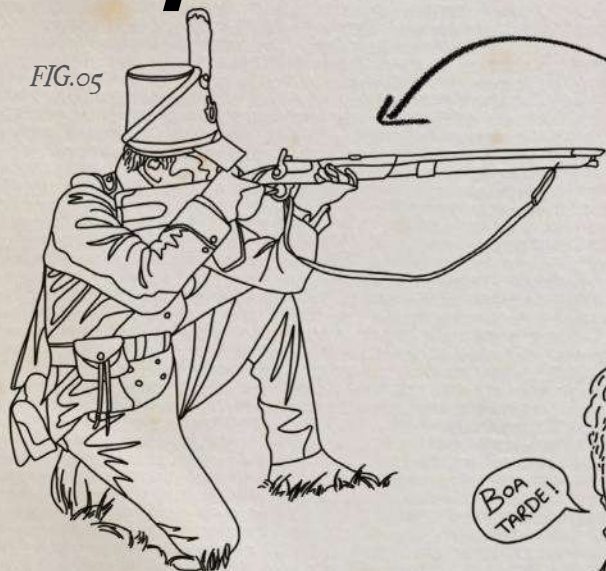


FIG.05

Combat

There are no two ways about it: when you're in a war, being able to handle a weapon well will benefit you. Soldiers are equipped with various weapons including swords, bayonets and difficult-to-aim muskets.

Languages

Britain is no longer a force that works alone; this war is all about allegiance and cooperation. You'll be living and fighting alongside Spanish and Portuguese, so being able to communicate clearly will aid your survival massively.

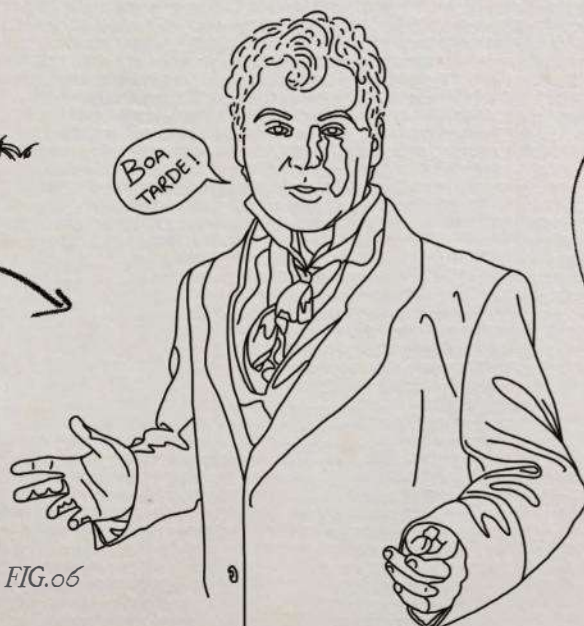


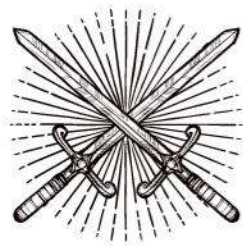
FIG.06



FIG.07

Publicity

With so many big personalities involved, the public are enthralled by the Napoleonic wars; it's where heroes and villains are made. If you are able to control how your own actions are portrayed, history may treat you just as nicely as its hero, Wellesley.



THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO

WATERLOO, BELGIUM 18 JUNE 1815

The bloody culmination of the Waterloo Campaign, the Battle of Waterloo was one of the most explosive of the 19th century, with a British-led allied army under the command of Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, defeating a French army under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte and ending the latter's 100-day reign as the emperor of France.

The war had begun after Napoleon I returned from exile on Elba (an island off Tuscany) to Paris on 20 March 1815. This set into motion a chain of events that would see Napoleon reclaim his position as emperor, the Congress of Vienna declare him an outlaw and the Seventh Coalition pledge to field a large army to bring his rule to an end.

With hundreds of thousands of soldiers drafted to take Napoleon down, it was only a matter of time before blood was spilt – something that occurred two days prior to Waterloo when Napoleon struck at the Prussian army before it could join up with Wellington's on 16 June.

The French ruler did this by splitting his army into three groups, with two dedicated to the Prussians. The following exchange was the Battle of Ligny and saw Napoleon defeat the Prussians by causing their centre to collapse under repeated French assaults. While the Prussians lost men, they were not routed however and – as we shall see – were disastrously left to retreat uninterrupted, with only a cursory French force giving chase.

On the same day as the Battle of Ligny, Napoleon's army's remaining left flank had been engaged with some of Wellington's forces at Quatre Bras, where they had attempted unsuccessfully to overrun the Prince of Orange's

position. With the Prussians apparently defeated, Napoleon turned his attention on Quatre Bras, reaching the area the following day. By this point, however, Quatre Bras had been abandoned by both sides; Wellington could not hold it without the Prussians. After catching up with his left flank commander, Marshal Michel Ney, who was pursuing a retreating Wellington towards Waterloo, Napoleon ordered his right flank commander, Marshal Emmanuel de Grouchy, to see off the Prussians more definitively.

By this time, with Napoleon issuing the order late on the afternoon of 17 June, the Prussians had already made significant ground and regrouped at the town of Wavre – a position from which they could easily rejoin Wellington at Waterloo – and Marshal Grouchy was unsuccessful in catching them. Despite eventually defeating a solitary Prussian Corps at Wavre on 18 June, by this time the Battle of Waterloo was in full swing and Grouchy was unable to take part.

After Napoleon had issued the order to Marshal Grouchy he continued to hunt down Wellington with his remaining forces before making camp south-west of Wellington's position at Waterloo. The scene was now set for the Battle of Waterloo the next day (18 June), which, as we all know, resulted in a famous victory for the Duke of Wellington and a final defeat for Emperor Napoleon.

As a consequence of Napoleon's loss at Waterloo, the French monarchy was restored, with King Louis XVIII regaining the throne on 8 July 1815, while the emperor himself was banished to the volcanic island of Saint Helena in the Atlantic Ocean. Napoleon would live on Saint Helena for a further six years, before passing away in May 1821.

NAPOLÉON'S BODYGUARD

Protecting Napoleon during the battle were his Old Guard – elite veterans of the Imperial Guard that he handpicked based on their combat experience. One of the most common traits was above average height, meaning that they towered over many other units on the battlefield.



SCOTS GREYS

The charge of the Royal Scots Greys at Waterloo became symbolic of the courage demonstrated by Coalition forces in the face of the might of Napoleon's army. Their charge famously repelled a key French advance, caused the complete destruction of a large French infantry column and led to the capture of Napoleon's 45th Regiment of the Line's eagle standard.

SEVENTH COALITION

While the primary antagonists of the Battle of Waterloo were the UK and France, a host of other nations played a part, joining with the British to form a coalition against the new emperor of France. These included the Netherlands, Hanover, Nassau, Bavaria and Prussia – the latter contributing most significantly.

**HEAVY LOSSES**

While Waterloo was not a medieval meat-grinder of a battle, with tactics very firmly on display, it still had a huge casualty list. Of Napoleon's 72,000 troops, around 25,000 were killed outright or wounded, 8,000 were taken prisoner and 15,000 went missing. The total for Wellington and his allies' soldiers killed, wounded or missing came to around 24,000.



Seventh Coalition

TROOPS 118,000

CAVALRY 11,000

CANNON 150



DUKE OF WELLINGTON

LEADER

Rising to prominence in the Napoleonic Wars, Arthur Wellesley remained commander-in-chief of the British Army until his death in 1852.

Strengths Very confident and energetic leader

Weakness Not the most tactically astute of generals



INFANTRY

IMPORTANT UNIT

Among the best on the planet, the infantry dug in deep at Waterloo to deny many French cavalry charges.

Strength Versatile troops that could fight at close to medium range

Weaknesses Easily outflanked by cavalry and vulnerable to cannons



CANNON

KEY WEAPON

Very destructive, the Coalition's artillery helped slow the French forces and break up their lines.

Strengths Cannon had excellent range and could do a lot of damage

Weaknesses Needed supporting troops for protection as fairly fragile under fire and few in number

01 FIRST FORAY

Between 10 and 11.30am on 18 June the Battle of Waterloo began with a French attack on a Coalition position at Hougoumont, a large farmhouse that served as a tactical outpost. This fighting was low key at first with few troops from each side engaged, but by the early afternoon it had become a bloody epicentre for much of the fighting, with the Coalition forces holding out against numerous French assaults.

02 GRANDE BATTERIE

Around midday Napoleon ordered his grande batterie of 80 cannon to open fire upon Wellington's position. The cannon caused many casualties in Wellington's cavalry, opening a potential weak point in the defending lines.

03 FRENCH INFANTRY ATTACK

After the Coalition's lines had been weakened, Napoleon began his attack proper, with numerous infantry corps advancing. The initial fighting went the way of the French, with the left's infantry pressing Wellington's forces back. However, just when it looked like Napoleon would make a decisive break, he was informed that Prussian troops were fast approaching. He tried to send word to Marshal Grouchy to engage with them, but his commander was in Wavre.

10 FRENCH ARMY RETREATS

With the French left, right and centre now disintegrating, the only cohesive force left available to Napoleon were two battalions of his Old Guard. Despite hoping to rally his remaining troops behind them, the strength of the Coalition's forces left this untenable, and all Napoleon could do was order a retreat. His exit was covered by the Old Guard, many of whom died holding back the Coalition's advance.



04 BRITISH HEAVY CAVALRY ATTACK

Seeing their infantry was about to buckle, Wellington's First and Second Brigade of heavy cavalry charged and smashed into the French infantry. By the time they reached the bottom of the hill, they had completely halted the infantry's advance. In doing so, however, they had left themselves exposed and without backup.

09 PLANCENOIT RECAPTURED

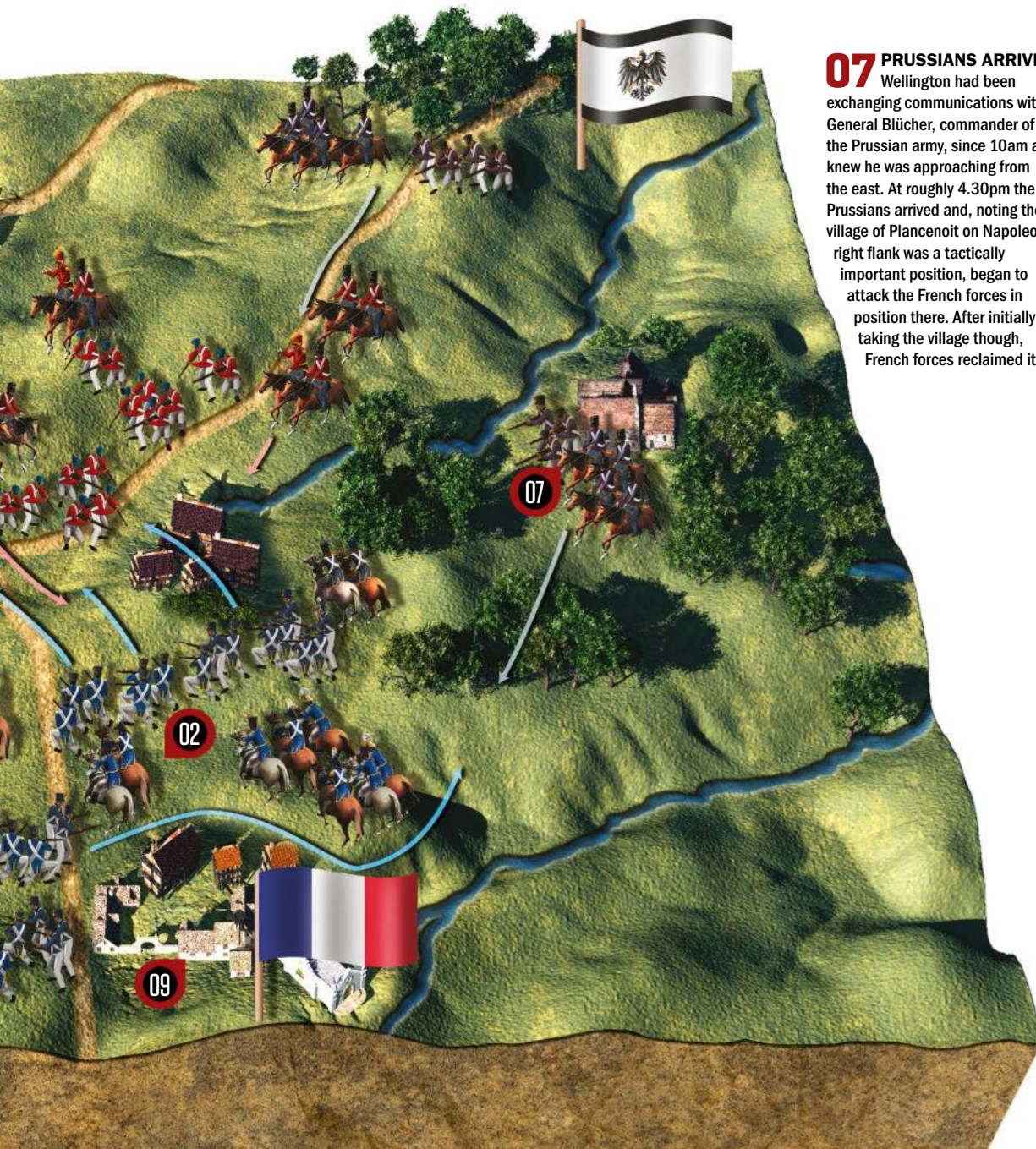
The Prussian army retook Plancenoit and targeted Napoleon's right flank, giving Wellington the upper hand. The Old Guard who had been supporting the French position at Plancenoit beat a hasty retreat.

08 IMPERIAL GUARD ATTACKS WELLINGTON

With his forces temporarily holding off the Prussians at Plancenoit, Napoleon went on one last major offensive. He sent the supposedly undefeatable Imperial Guard into Wellington's army's centre in an attempt to break through and attack his flanks from within. While the guard had some success, breaching multiple lines of the Coalition force, eventually they were overrun by Wellington's numerically superior infantry and wiped out.

07 PRUSSAINS ARRIVE

Wellington had been exchanging communications with General Blücher, commander of the Prussian army, since 10am and knew he was approaching from the east. At roughly 4.30pm the Prussians arrived and, noting the village of Plancenoit on Napoleon's right flank was a tactically important position, began to attack the French forces in position there. After initially taking the village though, French forces reclaimed it.

**05 NAPOLEON COUNTERS**

With the Coalition's heavy cavalry now facing squares of French infantry to the front and with no support, Napoleon ordered a counterattack, dispatching his cuirassier and lancer regiments from his own cavalry division. A massive central battle ensued, with cavalry, infantry and artillery all involved. While Napoleon's cavalry regiments took out much of the Coalition's heavy cavalry, they could not wipe them out. Napoleon also dispatched troops to intercept the Prussians.

06 Stalemate

At the heart of the battle, Coalition and French squares then undertook a series of back-and-forth exchanges. All the while cannon and musket fire continued to rain down from all sides and, aside from one more combined arms assault by the French on the centre-right of Wellington's lines, a general mêlée ensued, with each side seeing their numbers steadily chipped away.

**France****TROOPS** 72,000**CAVALRY** 14,000**CANNON** 250**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE****LEADER**

Emperor Bonaparte became famous for his tactical genius, enabling him to take over much of central Europe.

Strengths A savvy strategist with plenty of battle experience

Weaknesses Erratic; he took a detached approach to fighting

**CAVALRY****IMPORTANT UNIT**

French light cavalry was considered the best of its kind in the world and played a large part in holding off the Coalition's heavy cavalry charges.

Strength Fast, agile units capable of easily outflanking the enemy

Weakness Direct cavalry charges rely on surprise to be most effective

**MUSKET****KEY WEAPON**

The musket was wielded by Napoleon's Old Guard with deadly accuracy, picking off large numbers of Coalition soldiers at Waterloo.

Strength Excellent medium-range stopping power

Weaknesses Slow to reload and also poor in hand-to-hand combat

THE LIGHT BRIGADE'S RIDE



The charge is often used as an example of the incompetence of the British military command in the war

TO DEATH OR GLORY



Just after 11am on 25 October 1854, at what was to become known as the Battle of Balaclava, Orderly Bugler William 'Billy' Brittain put his bugle to his lips. Resplendent in the blue uniform of the 17th Lancers, complete with its distinctive flat-topped czapka cap bearing the regimental badge – a death's head with the motto 'Or Glory' – he sounded the order to advance. The badge's sentiment was to prove hauntingly prophetic as the chirpy notes he now sounded from his bugle were about to send over 600 cavalymen from Britain's elite Light Brigade galloping to their doom.

It wasn't that Billy Brittain was to blame for one of the greatest military blunders of all time. After all, like the rest of the men who took part in what became the fabled Charge of the Light Brigade, he was merely following orders. "Trumpeter, walk... march!" His commanding officer, Lord Cardigan, had barked at him moments before. But he, too, was just obeying orders. So who was responsible for the disastrous charge? And what were men like Billy doing on a remote Russian plain risking their lives for the British Imperial cause in the first place?

Step forward Russia's ambitious monarch Nicholas I. By the mid-19th century, Turkey's Ottoman Empire was in decline and the Czar saw an opportunity to expand his borders westward. Capture Constantinople, he figured, and Russia's warships would have access to the Mediterranean, allowing his country unprecedented influence over foreign trade routes. It was clearly something the men who ran Victoria's wave-ruling empire were never going to allow. The Czar, though, was not as easily deterred.

In July 1853, a religious row between France, Turkey and Russia over the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem escalated into a full-blown war when Czar Nicholas used the diplomatic dispute as an excuse to invade Ottoman lands. Britain watched the war with interest. When Turkey started to lose, Victoria's government issued an ultimatum for Russia to withdraw. When the bullish Czar ignored it, Britain's Imperial propaganda machine went into overdrive. With its press fanning the flames, war fever gripped the nation.

By spring the following year, flag-waving crowds cheered Britain's hastily assembled 28,000-strong expeditionary force onto a flotilla of gunships and waved them off over the horizon. The Russian Bear, many a British citizen believed, with all their pumped-up heart, was going to get the thrashing it deserved.

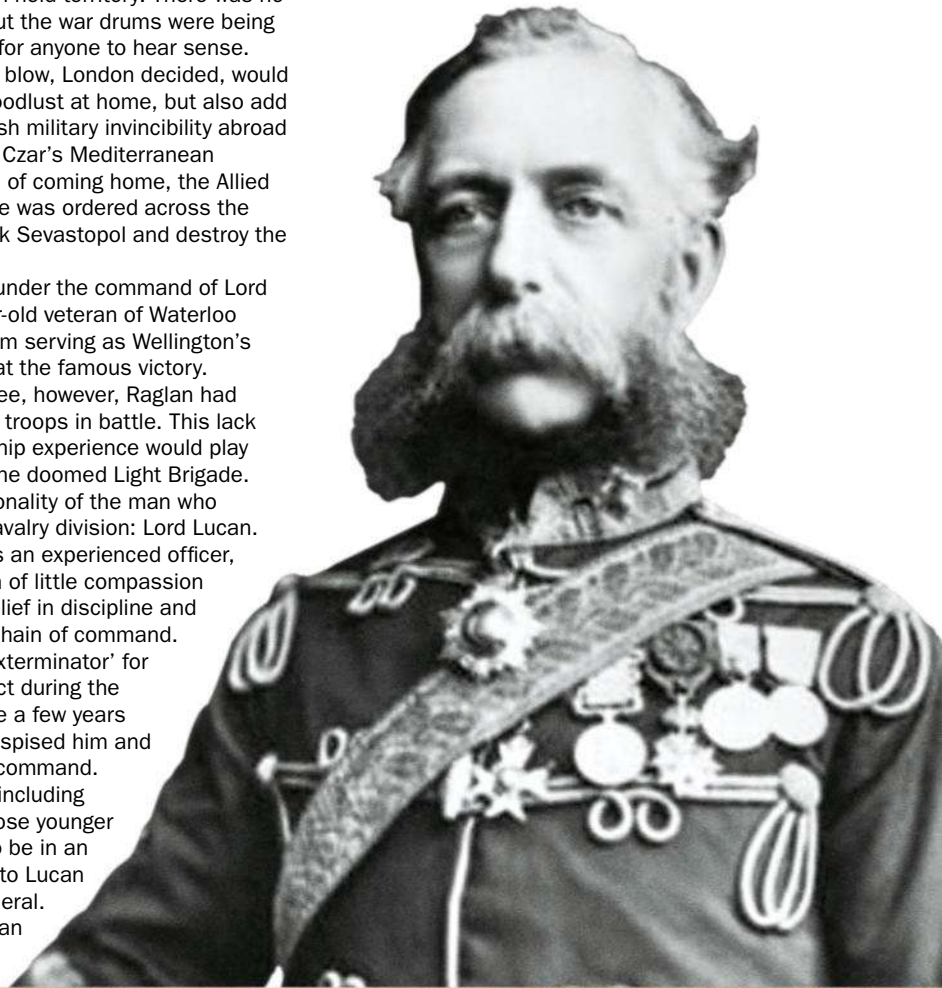
By August, British troops were in Varna, in Turkish-held Bulgaria, where they were met by 30,000 troops from France, who had joined Britain's crusade. Here they were also met by news that the Czar – alarmed by reports that Austrian troops were massing on Russia's western border – had actually withdrawn his troops from Turkish-held territory. There was no need for conflict but the war drums were being banged too loudly for anyone to hear sense.

A swift, decisive blow, London decided, would not only satisfy bloodlust at home, but also add to the aura of British military invincibility abroad as well as end the Czar's Mediterranean ambitions. Instead of coming home, the Allied Expeditionary Force was ordered across the Black Sea to attack Sevastopol and destroy the Russian fleet.

The Allies were under the command of Lord Raglan – a 66-year-old veteran of Waterloo who had lost an arm serving as Wellington's military secretary at the famous victory. Despite his pedigree, however, Raglan had never commanded troops in battle. This lack of combat leadership experience would play its part in fate of the doomed Light Brigade. As would the personality of the man who commanded his cavalry division: Lord Lucan.

While Lucan was an experienced officer, he was also a man of little compassion and unwavering belief in discipline and obedience to the chain of command. Nicknamed 'The Exterminator' for his sadistic conduct during the Irish Potato Famine a few years earlier, his men despised him and his brutal style of command. Lucan's officers – including Lord Cardigan, whose younger sister happened to be in an unhappy marriage to Lucan – loathed their general. As a result, Cardigan was barely able

"NICKNAMED 'THE EXTERMINATOR' FOR HIS SADISTIC CONDUCT DURING THE IRISH POTATO FAMINE A FEW YEARS EARLIER, HIS MEN DESPISED HIM AND HIS BRUTAL STYLE OF COMMAND"



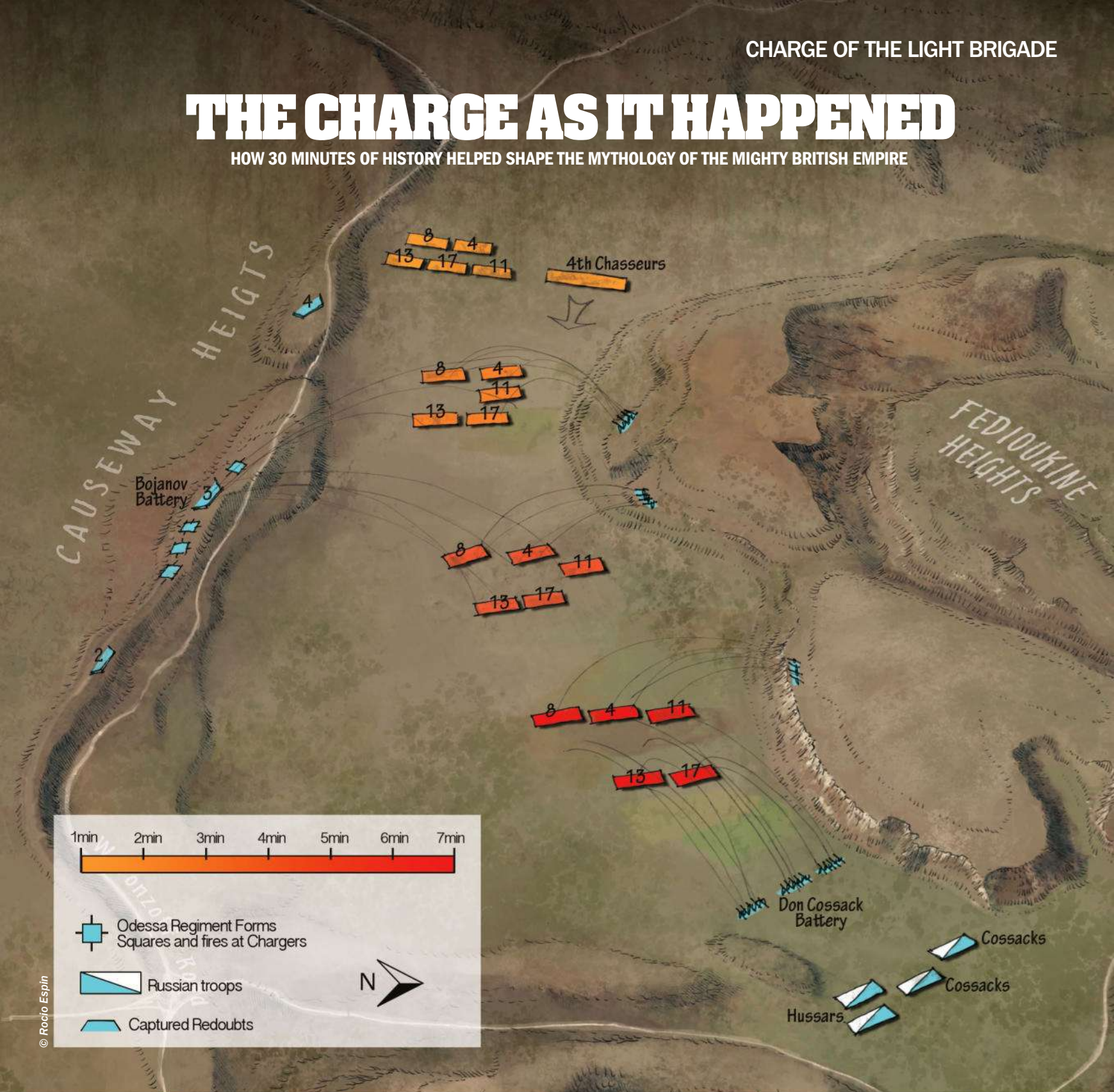
Above: Lord Cardigan, who led the Light Brigade's infamous charge during the Battle of Balaclava, came home to a hero's welcome

The 93rd Highlanders were lionised by the British Press for their bravery and actions at Balaclava



THE CHARGE AS IT HAPPENED

HOW 30 MINUTES OF HISTORY HELPED SHAPE THE MYTHOLOGY OF THE MIGHTY BRITISH EMPIRE



© Rocio Espin

11am

LORD CARDIGAN GIVES THE ORDER TO ADVANCE

Despite realising that he is leading his men into certain peril, the Light Brigade's commander tells his bugler to sound the advance. "Here goes the last of the Brudenells," he is heard to murmur to himself shortly before. Brudenell was his family name and he was the last male in its bloodline.

11.02am

CAPTAIN NOLAN IS THE FIRST CASUALTY

Minutes into the charge the man who'd delivered the fateful order, Captain Lewis Nolan, is killed instantly by a shrapnel wound to his chest. It's thought that, having finally realised his misconstrued message would have tragic results, he raced to the front of the Brigade to try to redirect the charge.

11.08am

CARDIGAN'S MEN REACH THE RUSSIAN LINES

After a full six minutes of riding through an intense artillery barrage, around 150 men of the Light Brigade finally reach the Russian line and, after intense hand-to-hand combat with the infantry and artillery men there, break through it. Incredibly, their leader, Lord Cardigan, survives the entire charge unscathed.

11.09am

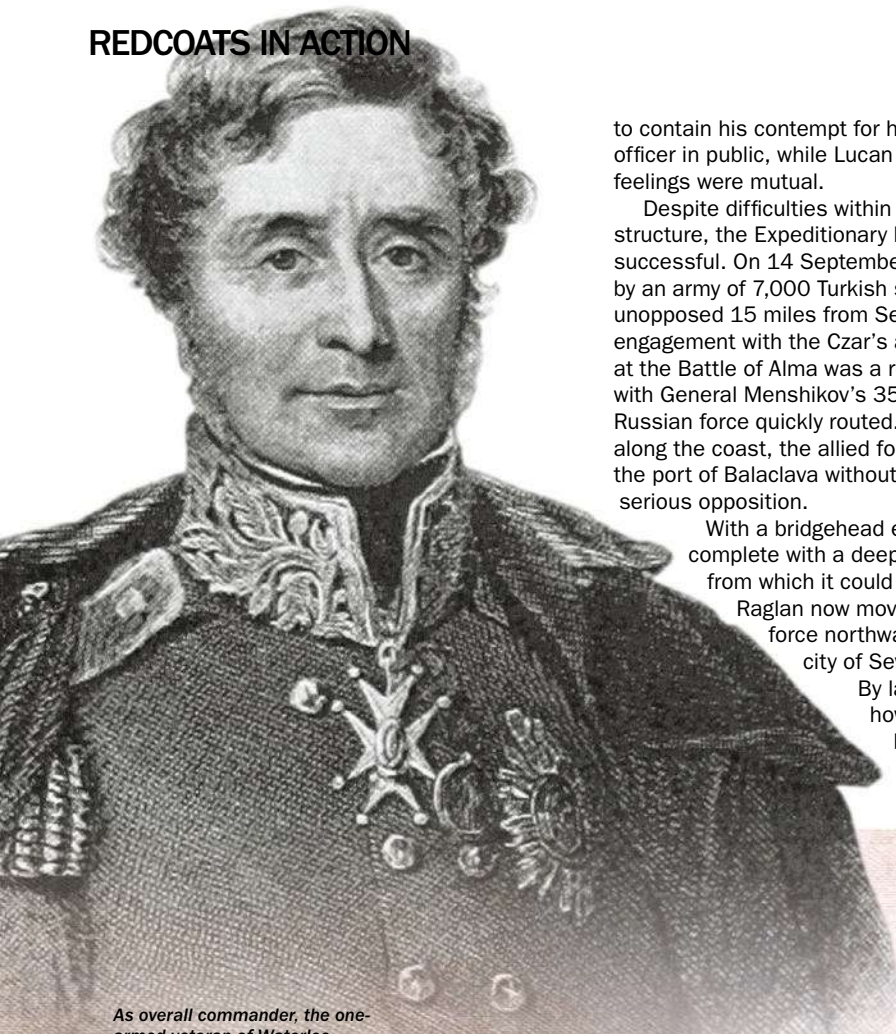
THE BRIGADE ENCOUNTERS MENSHIKOV'S CAVALRY

Behind the Russian guns, however, are around 2,000 Russian cavalrymen. Having rushed through the gun positions, the Light Brigade now ploughs into their massed ranks. They are hopelessly outnumbered and after a brief but ferocious skirmish, those still alive or able to begin to withdraw.

11.30am

THE LAST SURVIVORS ARRIVE BACK AT BRITISH LINES

Half an hour after it started, the survivors hobble back to the British line at the western end of the valley. The casualties are thought to be approximately 110 killed, 160 wounded with the loss of around 375 horses. Although not wiped out, the Light Brigade is effectively rendered inoperable for the rest of the campaign.



As overall commander, the one-armed veteran of Waterloo, Lord Raglan, was ultimately held responsible for the deadly debacle at Balaclava

to contain his contempt for his commanding officer in public, while Lucan made it clear the feelings were mutual.

Despite difficulties within its command structure, the Expeditionary Force was initially successful. On 14 September, by now joined by an army of 7,000 Turkish soldiers, it landed unopposed 15 miles from Sevastopol. Its first engagement with the Czar's army six days later at the Battle of Alma was a rousing success, with General Menshikov's 35,000-strong Russian force quickly routed. Continuing further along the coast, the allied force then seized the port of Balaclava without encountering any serious opposition.

With a bridgehead established, complete with a deep-water harbour from which it could be resupplied,

Raglan now moved the bulk of his force northwards to besiege the city of Sevastopol.

By late October, however, Raglan began to receive reports that Menshikov's

routed army had regrouped and was now preparing to attack Balaclava. With Raglan's forces stretched right across the Crimean peninsula, the defence of the port was left to the highly able Sir Colin Campbell and a few thousand men. Campbell had established a string of redoubts along the Causeway Heights to the north of Balaclava. These defensive positions were intended to keep watch over the position and the valley approaches that fed into it and were mostly manned by Turkish artillery. To the east of the port he placed 1,200 Royal Marines with 26 guns, while entrance to the gorge was protected by the 93rd Highlanders, and W Battery of the Royal Artillery. Meanwhile, Lucan's cavalry division – made up of both the Light and Heavy Brigades – was around a mile to the north of Balaclava. With the nearest reinforcements at least a two-hour march away to the north, the redoubts on the Causeway Heights were tactically vital for the defence of Balaclava, and Campbell knew it. Unfortunately, so did the Russians.

On 25 October, General Menshikov unleashed a force of 25 battalions and 78 guns to seize the redoubts. Attacking at dawn,

“AGAINST ALL THE ODDS, THE BRITISH HAD WON A SECOND UNLIKELY VICTORY IN THE EVOLVING BATTLE OF BALACLAVA – BUT THEIR LUCK WAS ABOUT TO RUN OUT”





On his return home Lord Cardigan gave highly exaggerated accounts of his part in the battle

the Russians soon overran the positions there and by 8am controlled all six strongholds along the causeway heights. After surveying the battlefield from the Sapouné Heights to the north, Raglan sent orders for reinforcements to urgently march south to support the defence of Balaclava. He also ordered Lucan to withdraw his cavalry to protect them from artillery fire, leaving just the 550 men of the 93rd Highlanders and a single artillery battery between the Russians and their allies' vital supply link at Balaclava. Within minutes, around 400 Russian Hussars were galloping straight towards the Highlanders. Abandoning the square formation tactic typically employed by the British army at that time, Campbell organised his troops into two ranks, the soon-to-be famous Thin Red Line. The Russians charged the Highlanders, but incredibly the line stood and the Hussars were sent galloping back in full retreat, harassed by artillery as they ran.

Raglan was as surprised as anyone by the unlikely rout. Expecting the Highlanders to be overrun, he'd ordered Lucan to dispatch eight squadrons from his Heavy Brigade in support. These now ran into the remainder of the Russian cavalry – some 2,000 men. Despite being outnumbered five to one, the Heavy Brigade charged the Russians and miraculously routed them. Against all the odds, the British had won a second unlikely victory in the evolving Battle of Balaclava – but their luck was about to run out.

What remained of the Russian cavalry withdrew to the far end of the North Valley – a mile or so to the east – where they joined an eight-gun-strong field battery. In close proximity, on both sides of the valley, were another 22 Russian guns – meaning more than 30 artillery pieces zeroed in on the valley's narrow corridor. It was death trap, which Raglan could quite clearly see from his position atop the Sapouné Heights to the north. Also within his sights were Russian troops wheeling captured Turkish artillery pieces down from the redoubts and back to their own lines.

It was now 10am and Raglan, believing the redoubts were being abandoned, sent an order to Lucan to quickly explore the possibility of retaking them. His ambiguous order read, "Cavalry to advance and take advantage of any opportunity to recover the Heights. They will be supported by infantry, which have been ordered. Advance on two fronts." The infantry Raglan spoke of were the reinforcements he'd earlier called for who were still marching south and nowhere to be seen. Lucan, assuming he had to wait for them, stayed put.

Half an hour passed before an irate Raglan sent yet another misleading order. This one

BLUNDERED ORDERS

HOW MISCOMMUNICATION, HOT HEADEDNESS AND PERSONAL GRIEVANCE ALL PLAYED A PART IN THE DISASTER

LORD RAGLAN

ORDER:

In a hastily scribbled note Lord Raglan writes, "Cavalry to advance rapidly to the front, follow the enemy, and try to prevent the enemy carrying away the guns."



CAPTAIN NOLAN

ORDER:

"Tell Lord Lucan the cavalry is to attack immediately!" Lord Raglan shouts after an overexcited Nolan, before pointing vaguely at the Russian position at the far end of the north valley.



LORD LUCAN

ORDER:

Nolan passes on the order to Lord Lucan, who instructs Lord Cardigan to lead the attack. "What choice have we?" he shrugs when the latter points out the suicidal order.



read, "Lord Raglan wishes the cavalry to advance rapidly to the front, follow the enemy, and try to prevent the enemy carrying away the guns. Troop of horse artillery may accompany. French cavalry is on your left. Immediate." It was to prove a fatal choice of words, as the man sent to deliver the message – the notoriously hot-headed Captain Nolan – would also play his role in the unfolding tragedy. "Tell Lord Lucan the cavalry is to attack immediately!" Raglan shouted after Nolan as he galloped away.

Upon Nolan's delivery of Raglan's missive a confused Lucan looked about the battlefield and asked, "Attack, sir? Attack what? What guns sir?" Because of the corrugated terrain he could see the Russian position at the end of the valley, but not the Russian troops making off with captured artillery pieces from the redoubts. A highly excited Nolan then reportedly made a sweeping gesture towards the far end of the valley and shouted. "There my Lord

"RUSSIAN GUNS ON THREE SIDES NOW RAINED FIRE DOWN ON THE ADVANCING BRITISH CAVALRY, WHILE THE ALLIED COMMANDERS ON THE HEIGHTS STARED ON IN DISBELIEF AT THE SPECTACULAR BUT SUICIDAL DRAMA BEING PLAYED OUT IN FRONT OF THEM"



The Charge of the Light Brigade still continues to inspire film, literature and music across the world

REDCOATS IN ACTION

War artist William Simpson's official painting of the Charge was vetted by Cardigan to show him clearly leading the ranks



**“THESE DANDYISH VICTORIAN WARRIORS,
IDEOLOGICALLY HARD-WIRED FOR DEATH OR
GLORY, RODE INTO BRITISH IMPERIAL MYTHOLOGY,
PUMPED ON PATRIOTISM AND ADRENALINE”**



REDCOATS IN ACTION

is your enemy. There are your guns!" before reiterating Raglan's wishes that the attack should take place immediately.

So Lucan complied, ordering his hated brother-in-law's Light Brigade take point. When Lord Cardigan, not unreasonably, questioned the sanity of the order, Lucan merely replied that those were the orders he'd been given, adding: "What choice have we?" The Light Brigade's fate was sealed. Before giving Billy Brittain the order to sound the advance, Cardigan was heard to murmur, "Well, here goes the last of the Brudenells," a reference to his family name and the fact he clearly didn't expect to survive the morning.

The three lines of the Light Brigade began to ride slowly down into the valley's death trap. Behind them followed the Heavy Brigade on their larger horses.

William Howard Russell, a reporter with the *The Times* and the world's first modern war correspondent, watched on with a mix of wonder and horror: "They swept proudly past," he wrote, "glittering in the morning sun in all the pride and splendour of war. We could hardly believe the evidence of our senses! Surely that handful of men were not going to charge an army in position? Alas! It was but too true – their desperate valour knew no bounds, and far indeed was it removed from its so-called better part – discretion."

The actions at Balaclava greatly increased the reputation of British cavalry across Europe and the world. The same cannot be said for the British commanders



As the Light Brigade's trot broke into an all-out gallop, an agitated Captain Nolan suddenly broke ranks and raced to the front of the advance shouting at Lord Cardigan. Many have since speculated that, having finally realised the direction the charge was taking was wrong, he was trying to avert catastrophe.

Whatever he was shouting, however, was lost in the din of horses' hooves and the opening salvos from the Russian guns, and whatever his intentions were followed him to the grave. Moments later a shell burst directly above him and Nolan fell, the first of the Light Brigade's casualties that morning.

Russian guns on three sides now rained fire down on the advancing British cavalry, while the allied commanders on the heights stared on in disbelief at the spectacular, but suicidal, drama being played out in front of them. One astonished French commander, General Bosquet, was heard to comment, "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre: c'est de la folie." It's magnificent, but it is not war: it is madness.

Indeed, madness it was. A full-frontal cavalry assault against a fixed artillery position by what was a light, fast-moving reconnaissance unit ran contrary to every military practice. Yet these dandyish Victorian warriors, ideologically hard-

wired for death or glory, rode into British Imperial mythology, pumped on patriotism and adrenaline. Raglan's aide-de-camp, Lieutenant-Colonel Calthorpe, described the unfolding disaster in a letter shortly afterwards. "The pace of our cavalry increased every moment, until they went thundering along the valley, making the ground tremble beneath them. The awful slaughter that was going on, from the fire the enemy poured into them, apparently did not check their career. On they went, headlong towards their death, disregarding aught but the object of their attack."

Such was the speed of the Light Brigade's advance, that a significant gap opened up between it and the chasing Heavy Brigade. Armed with swords designed to hack and stab at close-quarter combat – rather than the slashing sabres and piercing lances the Light Brigade carried – the Heavies with their bigger horses were the tanks of the Victorian battlefield. Trained and equipped to smash into enemy positions and break them, they might have tipped the balance in the fighting that was to follow. But as the Light Brigade disappeared into the distance amid dust and cannon smoke, Lucan pulled them up and allowed his despised brother-in-law's men continue into the jaws of death alone. "They have sacrificed the Light Brigade, they shall not have the Heavy if I can help it!" he is reported to have said.

By now the Light Brigade, despite horrific casualties, was nearing the Russian line. Miraculously, still riding amongst its ranks was

Left: Lord Lucan – great, great grandfather of his notorious 20th-century namesake – sent his brother-in-law Cardigan ahead of him into the valley of death

"THEN WE WERE ON IT, HALF A DOZEN OF US LEAPT IN AMONG THE GUNS AT ONCE AND I, WITH ONE BLOW OF MY AXE, BRAINED A RUSSIAN GUNNER..."

BALACLAVA'S CAVALRY CARNAGE

THE LIGHT BRIGADE'S CHARGE IS THE MOST FAMOUS, YET LEAST SUCCESSFUL OF THREE MADE DURING THE BATTLE

Of the three charges made by the allies during the Battle of Balaklava, the one undertaken by the Light Brigade was by far the least successful. Two hours previous, eight squadrons of the British Heavy Brigade, under the command of the highly capable Colonel James Scarlett, had run into the main force of the Russian cavalry in the chaos of battle. Despite being significantly outnumbered – Scarlett's force is thought to have consisted of between 300-400 men while the Russian force was more than 2,000 strong – the Heavies ploughed into the

Russian flank. Eight minutes of hacking and slashing followed at close quarters until the Russians turned and fled back to the safety of their own lines. One French general said after witnessing the action, "It was truly magnificent and to me who could see the whole valley filled with Russian cavalry, the victory of the Heavy Brigade was the most glorious thing I ever saw!"

Before the day was out, the French cavalry would also prove their worth, however. During the Light Brigade survivors' shambolic retreat back down the North Valley, they were again torn into by the Russian guns on the hillsides. It is highly likely they would have all been wiped out had it not been for the French cavalry regiment, the Chasseurs d'Afrique. On seeing an opportunity to help the Light Brigade, they stormed the hillsides on the Brigade's left flank attacking the Russian positions there, helping to bring an end to the suffering in the valley below.

Left: Soldiers of the French Regiment the Chasseurs d'Afrique relax after having attacked Russian guns pounding the Light Brigade's left flank



Colonel Scarlett led his Heavy Brigade in a charge against a vastly superior Russian force, routing it in eight minutes



SURVIVORS OF THE — LIGHT BRIGADE —

ALMOST AS SOON AS THE CANNON SMOKE LIFTED,
LEGENDS AND LIES BEGAN TO SPIN

The Light Brigade suffered 40 per cent casualty rates and as a result saw limited action throughout the rest of the Crimean campaign, which ended in February 1856. Almost immediately public spats broke out amongst the aristocratic antagonists who had played key roles in the debacle. Lord Lucan, desperate to clear his name, successfully defended himself in a speech in the House of Commons in 1855, blaming both Raglan and the dead Captain Nolan for the catastrophe. His tactic appears to have worked as he was subsequently promoted. Cardigan, who also returned to Britain in 1855, was given a hero's welcome. Although, he later found his apparently daring role in the battle – something which he'd made a good deal of – come under scrutiny by the Press.

As for the ordinary men who'd fought and survived that day, however, they, for the most part, have shuffled off into the shadows of history. Not that there wasn't enthusiastic public support for them at the time. In fact, a Light Brigade Relief Fund – a sort of Victorian Help for Heroes – was quickly set up. This was funded by public donation as well as a number of entrepreneurial enterprises. One example was a recording of Billy Brittain's bugle order as remembered by Light Brigade veteran Martin Lanfried in 1890. The apparently opportunistic Lanfried billed himself as the man who'd sounded the fateful order to charge that day, and for years seems to have enjoyed a measure of celebrity as a result.

“LORD LUCAN, DESPERATE TO CLEAR HIS NAME, SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED HIMSELF IN A SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 1855, BLAMING BOTH RAGLAN AND THE DEAD CAPTAIN NOLAN FOR THE CATASTROPHE”

lancer Billy Brittain, whose bugle had started the whole fiasco, as well as men like Hussar Albert Mitchell, who would afterwards recall the intensity of the charge. “As we drew near, the guns in our front supplied us liberally with grape and canister which brought down men and horses in heaps. Up to this time I was going on alright but missed my left-hand man from my side and thinking it might soon be my turn offered up a small prayer, ‘Oh Lord protect me and watch over my poor mother.’”

With the air thick with grapeshot, smoke and dying screams the Light Brigade was just 100 yards from Russian guns when a final volley of grapeshot smashed into its ranks. Only 150 men on horseback had reached the Russian line and now they began to inflict a violent but brief revenge. One man who made it the length of the charge without injury was the 17th Lancers regimental butcher John Fahey. The night before he'd been arrested for being drunk and that morning had appeared late on parade still dressed in his butcher's apron, which he now wore as his horse galloped towards

“OF THE 673 MEN, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER IS DISPUTED, WHO HAD CHARGED THAT MORNING, JUST 195 WERE LEFT MOUNTED AFTER THE BATTLE. THE RECRIMINATIONS BEGAN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY”

destiny. He was armed not with a lance but a meat cleaver from his field kitchen. “Nearer and nearer we came to the dreadful battery,” he revealed some time later, “which kept vomiting death on us like a volcano ‘til I seemed to feel on my cheek the hot air from the cannon's mouth. Then we were on it, half a dozen of us leapt in among the guns at once and I, with one blow of my axe, brained a Russian gunner...”

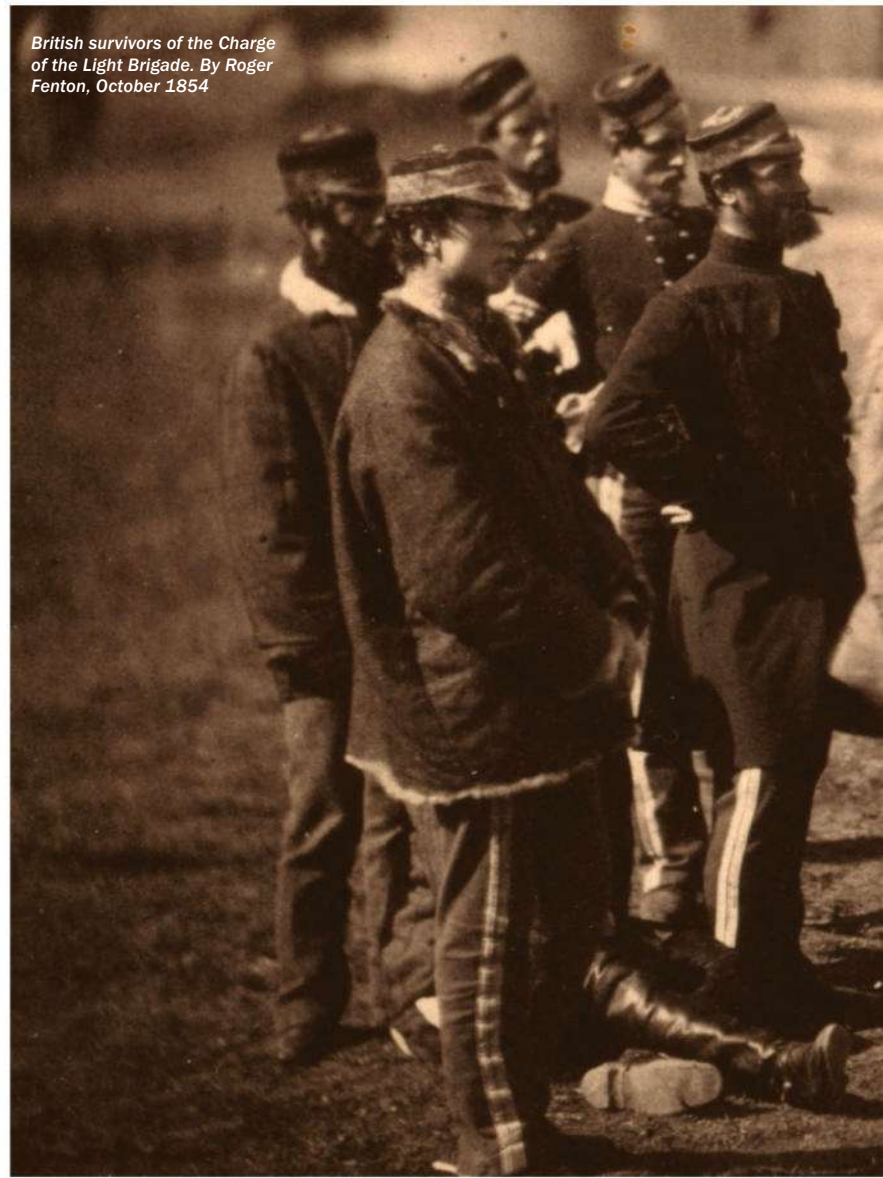
But the fray would not last long. Having smashed through the Russian guns at the far end of the valley, they were confronted by the massed ranks of Russian cavalry. The Light Brigade charged once more, but they were soon forced to retreat.

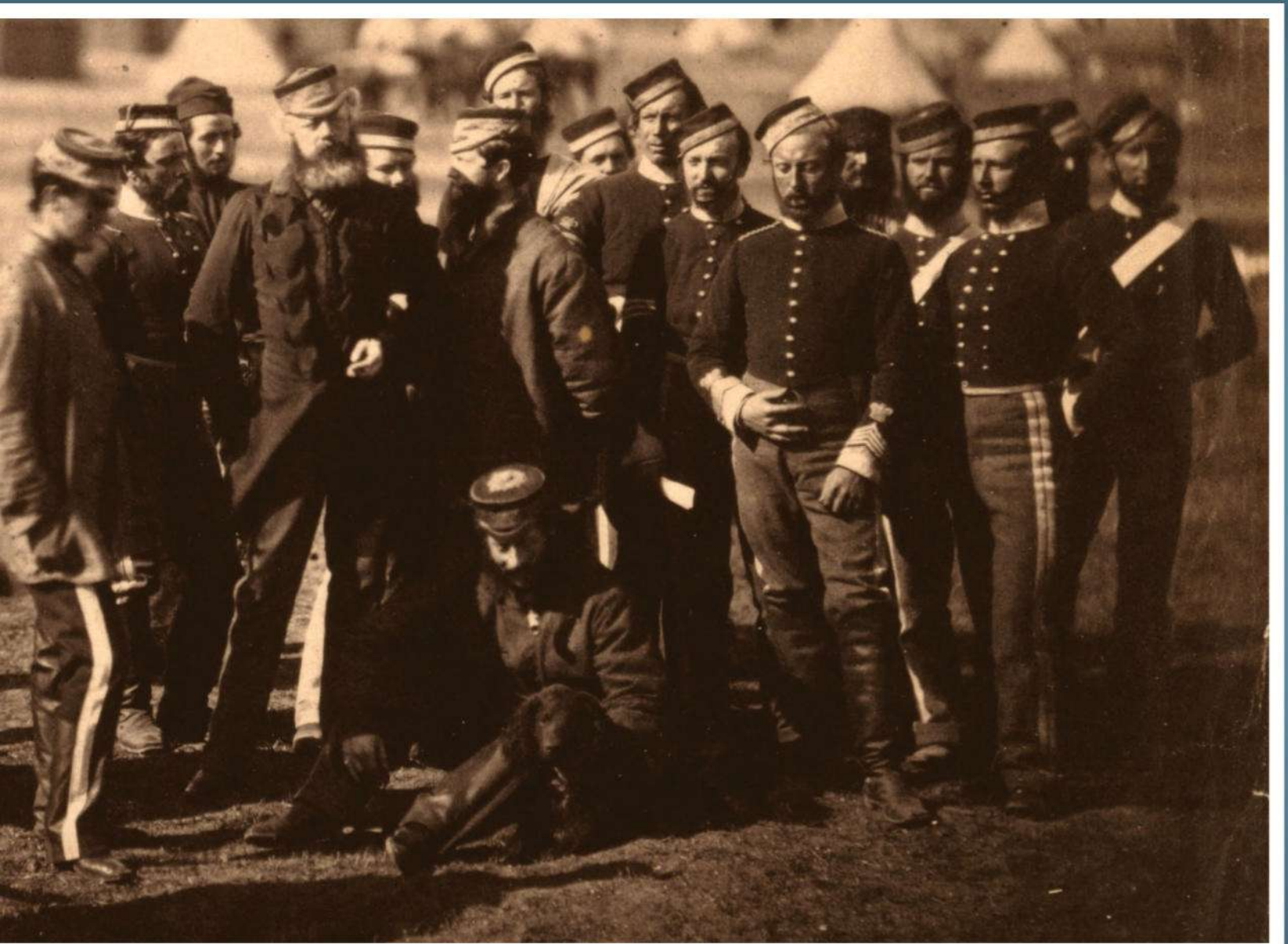
Among the British observers watching the entire debacle was Fanny Duberly, the wife

of a Light Brigade officer, who later wrote a controversial book detailing what she had witnessed. As the cloud of gun smoke and disturbed Crimean dust began to settle, she described a pathetic scene: “presently come a few horsemen, straggling, galloping back. What can those skirmishers be doing? Good God! It's the Light Brigade!”

Of the 673 men (although the number is disputed) who had charged that morning, only 195 were left mounted after the battle. The recriminations began almost immediately. Cardigan, who'd miraculously survived the charge, was initially reprimanded by a furious Raglan until Cardigan pointed out that he was, after all, just following orders. “My Lord,” Cardigan reportedly said, “I hope you will not

British survivors of the Charge of the Light Brigade. By Roger Fenton, October 1854





blame me, for I received the order to attack from my superior officer in front of the troops.” When Raglan’s anger cooled, he had to admit that Cardigan wasn’t to blame. He’d “acted throughout,” he later wrote in a letter, typical of many comments on Cardigan’s part in the disaster, “with the greatest steadiness and gallantry.” With Lucan, however, Raglan wasn’t so forgiving. Soon after his conversation with Cardigan, who’d not surprisingly blamed his brother-in-law, Raglan told Lucan bluntly, “You have lost the Light Brigade.”

It was an accusation Lucan vehemently denied and continued to do so for the rest of his life. The dead Nolan – who, of course, couldn’t defend himself – was also held up as culpable by both Lucan and Raglan as they squirmed to shift blame from themselves.

Official reports of the battle sent home focused on the valour of the Light Brigade, while the evident incompetence was swiftly glossed over.

Poets, painters and the Press all rushed to turn disaster into glory. Within weeks,

Queen Victoria’s Poet Laureate, Alfred Lord Tennyson, had immortalised the action in his most famous verse *The Charge Of The Light Brigade* which spoke, with rousing patriotism, of the “noble 600” who’d ridden “into the Valley of Death”, signing it off with a call for the world to honour their glorious sacrifice. While Tennyson was scribbling his poem back in Britain, painter William Simpson arrived in the Crimea as official war artist for the British government. Having not witnessed the events he was reliant upon those who had for a steer on how it should be officially recorded. Lord Cardigan was the most forthcoming and, after three attempts, finally signed off on Simpson’s interpretation of what had happened. “The truth was,” Simpson admitted later, “that in the last sketch I had taken greater care than in the first two to make his lordship conspicuous in the front of the brigade.”

Simpson’s vetted watercolours received the same privileged treatment as Raglan’s own despatches from the front and were sent home on the first available ship. Although there

was no censorship per se, journalist William Howard Russell’s reports and soldiers’ letters were delayed in Balaclava to ensure the official version of events got home first. Imperial Britain’s PR machine was clearly working hard to turn a military calamity into a story of mythic stoicism – something it largely succeeded in doing. The legendary Charge of the Light Brigade is still remembered by many, not for the ineptitude that caused it, but rather by the courageous sacrifice of the men who died undertaking a senseless action in a war that could have been avoided in the first place.

But whatever happened to Billy Brittain, whose bugle call had sparked the mythic Charge in the first place? Despite the patriotic-sounding name, Brittain was actually from Ireland – a land recently ravaged by famine – and like many of his countrymen he may well have joined the ranks of the British army as a means of staying alive. Badly wounded in the charge, Brittain was taken to a field hospital at Scutari, where he died of his wounds on 14 February 1855.

INKERMAN

A grand Russian assault takes on the tenacious ranks of British defenders to raise the Siege of Sevastopol

SEVASTOPOL, RUSSIA 5 NOVEMBER 1854

Sensing they were on the verge of victory, several hundred British soldiers charged down the eastern slope of Inkerman Ridge at mid-morning on 5 November 1854, with large numbers of routed Russian infantry before them. Just a few minutes earlier, the British had repulsed what seemed to be their last attack against a hotly contested position known as the Sandbag Battery.

After the position changed hands several times following the Russians' surprise attack at dawn, George, the Duke of Cambridge

arrived at the Sandbag Battery after a forced march with his Guards Brigade to reinforce elements of the British Second and Fourth divisions defending the strongpoint. To the north and east, the Russians were in full flight. Bodies of fallen soldiers slain by Minié rifles at point-blank range or bayoneted in the abdomen lay stacked up like cordwood around the nine-foot-high parapet.

Those Russians who survived the slaughter had thrown down their weapons and laid themselves before the British, wailing for mercy. Victory hung in the air.

Many of the British at the forward outpost pursued the retreating Russians. However, once they ascended into the valley, the Russian drums and bugles sounded the call for a fresh attack on the heights to their rear. Although the fog partially obscured the view uphill, they saw fresh waves of Russians engulf the Sandbag Battery.

The British had sorely miscalculated, and they would pay a heavy price for their folly. Those who had chased the Russians prematurely began climbing the slopes from where they had come. Grim-faced soldiers who had tasted a few precious drops of victory just minutes before now hoped to slip past the Russians in the fog to the safety of the British breastworks on Home Ridge. The fight on Inkerman Ridge was far from over.

Fourth Division Commander Major General George Cathcart is mortally wounded just as his troops launch a bayonet attack against the Russians

OPPOSING FORCES



VS



BRITISH & FRENCH

LEADERS FitzRoy Somerset, Lord Raglan; Brigadier General John L Pennefather
INFANTRY 16,000
GUNS 34

RUSSIAN

LEADERS General Prince Alexander Menshikov; Lieutenant General Peter Andreivich Dannenberg
INFANTRY 35,000 men
GUNS 134



Tsar demands attack

Like a shark that smells blood in the water, Tsar Nicholas I had watched the decline of the Ottoman Turks to his south with a keen interest. Hoping to further degrade the Turks' hold on the Balkans, in 1853 he proclaimed his right to protect the 12 million Orthodox Christians still living under the Turkish yoke in that region. But the French and English, who tried to maintain a balance of power in Europe and Asia that favoured their political and trade interests, interceded on behalf of what was dubbed 'the sick man of Europe'.

Turkish decline in the Balkans, as well as central Asia and Siberia, challenged western European interests in India and China. Nicholas issued an ultimatum to Ottoman

Sultan Abdulmecid I in March 1853. Nicholas's emissary Prince Alexander Menshikov gave the sultan eight days to acknowledge Russia as protector of the Orthodox Christians. However, when the sultan refused, Russian soldiers invaded the Balkans in July 1853. After their diplomatic intervention failed, Britain and France girded for war against Russia.

The Allies believed the best way to halt Russian aggression in the region was to capture the Russian naval base at Sevastopol, located on western tip of the Crimean Peninsula.

With that lofty objective in mind, they landed on the west coast of the Crimea in mid-September and marched on Sevastopol. Fearing his army would be trapped in the port city, General Prince Alexander Menshikov marched out of the base with the majority of his forces in order to retain his ability to manoeuvre against the British and the French. The Allies, who benefited from naval superiority, secured the port of Balaclava and repulsed a Russian attempt to capture it on 25 October.

Time was not on the Russians' side. When Tsar Nicholas learned that the Allies planned to substantially reinforce their army in the Crimea, he sent his sons, Grand Princes Michael and Nicholas, not only to boost the army's morale but also to prod Menshikov into launching a fresh attack that would defeat the Allies before they were reinforced. The Allies were ripe for such an attack because they did not have enough forces on hand to completely invest Sevastopol, as well as protect Balaclava and

the supply corridor between the two points. The French held the siege lines west of the city and the British manned those to its east.

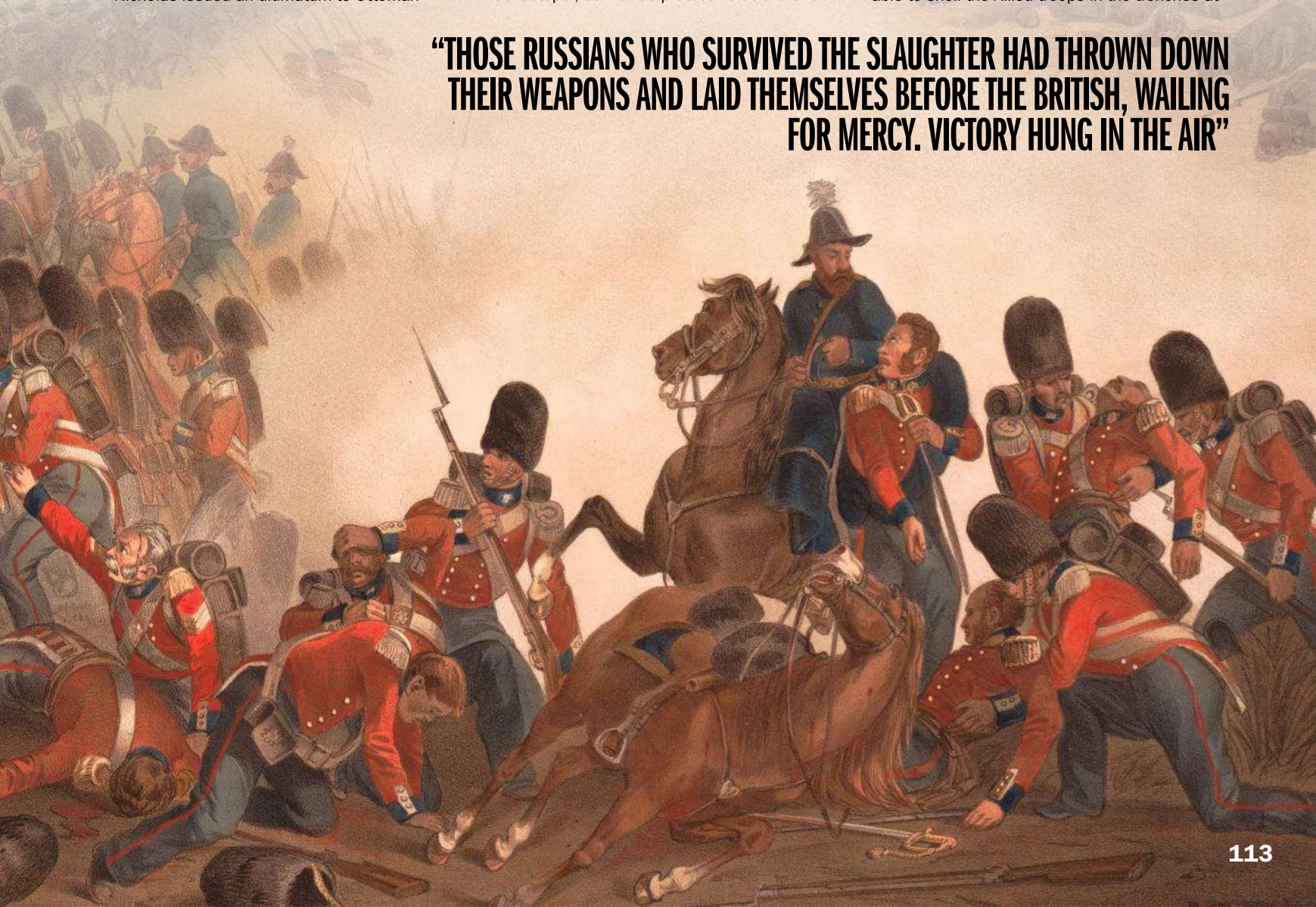
The Russians managed to maintain a corridor connecting the city with the interior of the Crimean peninsula by way of a road that ran parallel to Sevastopol's eastern roadstead. The Russians were able to do this because the guns of their ships, bottled up in the harbour by the Allied navies, were able to cover the northern extremity of Inkerman Ridge.

Reinforcements arrive

The Russians conducted a reconnaissance in force against the British Second Division, which anchored the right flank of the Allied army, on the afternoon of 26 October in a clash that became known afterwards as Little Inkerman. Lieutenant General George de Lacy Evans, commander of the division, conducted a masterful defence by drawing the Russians into the teeth of massed artillery that broke up their attack.

To strengthen Menshikov's army in preparation for the large-scale attack, Nicholas ordered two Russian divisions from the Balkans to the Crimea. The Russian 10th and 11th divisions arrived from Bessarabia on 2 November. In compliance with the Tsar's wishes, Menshikov planned to send these two divisions, as well as another already at Sevastopol, against the British Second Division on the morning of 5 November. Once the British had been driven off the ridge, the Russians would be able to shell the Allied troops in the trenches at

"THOSE RUSSIANS WHO SURVIVED THE SLAUGHTER HAD THROWN DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND LAID THEMSELVES BEFORE THE BRITISH, WAILING FOR MERCY. VICTORY HUNG IN THE AIR"



REDCOATS IN ACTION

The Grenadier Guards stand tall with their tattered colours, after helping the Second Division hold Inkerman Ridge in the face of fearsome odds



The Commander of the British Light Division, Lieutenant General Sir George Brown (1790–1865) and his staff



Left: Colonel Edward Birch Reynardson commanded the 3rd Grenadier Guards during the Battle of Inkerman; here he poses for a photo about a year after the battle



Sevastopol, which would make the Allied siege works indefensible.

Lieutenant General Fedor Ivanovich Soimonov's 10th Corps would advance from Sevastopol to assault De Lacy Evans's troops, while Lieutenant General P Ya Pavlov's 11th Corps would attack from the Tchernaya Valley. The Combined 16th/17th Division would be split between Soimonov and Pavlov.

The Russians would ascend the ridge from steep ravines on both sides that would largely mask their approach. Once the two columns merged on Inkerman Ridge, Russian Lieutenant General Peter Dannenberg would direct the attack. To prevent Allied reinforcements on the south end of the ridge coming to the Second Division's aid, Russian Lieutenant General Gorchakov was to make a strong feint with his 22,000-strong corps on the Inkerman Plain to the east. This included the Duke of Cambridge's Guards Brigade and Major General Pierre Bosquet's division.

While the British infantry were motivated volunteers, the Russians were conscripts with little training. Also unlike the British, the Russians preferred to fight with the bayonet rather than trade volleys with their opponents. Their outdated muskets were only accurate to 150 yards and had a top range of 300 yards. In contrast, the British Minié rifles were deadly accurate at 300 yards and effective at up to 1,000 yards.

The rugged terrain over which the Russians would attack heavily favoured the defending British. It consisted of rocky ravines

and hills that were covered with thick brush and blister-like rocky protrusions. In the days leading up to the offensive, steady rains had soaked the landscape, turning barren patches into muddy morasses and making the rocks so slippery it was near impossible to get a solid footing on them.

An important command change had taken place in the Second Division as a result of an unforeseen development following Little Inkerman. De Lacy Evans had suffered a severe fall from his horse, meaning command devolved to Brigadier General John L Pennefather, commander of the division's first brigade. A general with an abundance of experience leading troops in India, he liked to fight from the front and keep close tabs on those under his command as the battle developed.

A soldier's battle

Soimonov's 19,000-man corps was on the move before dawn on 5 November. His troops marched in a drizzling rain south east through the Careenage Ravine that paralleled Inkerman Ridge to the west. A thick fog concealed them from the sharp eyes of British pickets. Pennefather had half a dozen picquets, which were forward outposts, each manned by a company of 100 soldiers, arrayed 500 yards north of his main position.

The grey-uniformed Russian infantry ascended the slippery ridge at 5.45am. They charged with fixed bayonets, yelling at the top of their lungs as they struck the picquets. "The Russians came on with the most fiendish yells you can imagine," said a captain with the 41st (Welch) Regiment.

REDCOATS IN ACTION

British riflemen at isolated picquets tried their best to stem the onslaught, but many found their cartridges were too damp and they could not fire their rifles. The situation was chaotic; the fog made it nearly impossible for either side to see what was happening. "We could see no further than a few feet ahead of us," said a Russian captain. Soimonov had an early success when his troops captured Shell Hill from a picquet manned by the 41st Regiment.

Although the fog cloaked the Russian attack, it ultimately had a negative effect on both sides. For one, the mist made it impossible for officers commanding battalions and companies to know the precise location of their troops and monitor their performance. Additionally, it became impossible to rally them if they became disheartened. As a consequence, during the morning it often fell to groups of soldiers to make decisions that ordinarily would be made for them by their officers. For this reason, Inkerman is known as a 'soldier's battle'.

While the Russian artilerists hauled their guns into position atop Shell Hill, Pennefather sent eight companies forward to reinforce the picquets. Rather than order the companies to fall back to the division's main line at Home Ridge, he sought to slow the momentum of the Russian attack until reinforcements could arrive. The stalwart British riflemen fought back from behind rock outcroppings and scrub thickets.

The Second Division benefitted from a defence in depth. Shell Hill and the picquets formed the outer belt. The middle belt consisted of a field fortification position known as 'the barrier' in the centre and the Sandbag Battery on the far right. The inner belt was the fortified Home Ridge astride the Post Road, which ran along the spine of Inkerman Ridge. All the British field guns were deployed behind embrasures at Home Ridge; therefore the Sandbag Battery had no guns on the day of battle.

Of the 8,500 British at Sevastopol, more than half were positioned on Inkerman Ridge and adjacent ridges to the south. As soon as he realised that a major attack was under way, Pennefather sent requests to the British Guards Brigade, 4th Division and Light Division requesting immediate assistance.

Pennefather desperately needed help because by that time, Pavlov's 16,000-strong corps had bridged the Tchernaya River and was ascending Inkerman Ridge from three points. The Russians then pressed their attack against the British forces on a 1,000-yard front that stopped them from bringing the full weight of their numbers. Lieutenant General Sir George Brown, the commander of the 4th Division, arrived during the second hour of the battle with his

SEVASTOPOL

01 CHURCH BELLS RINGING

The bells of Sevastopol's churches began ringing at 9pm on the night before the attack to raise the morale of the Russian troops as they prepared to march into battle. The bell ringing helped to cover the sounds of the army's preparations; most importantly, the rumble of the limbered artillery.

02 THE BIG GUNS

Russian ships lay anchored in Sevastopol's roadstead, and their big guns controlled the northern end of Inkerman Ridge, which prevented the British army from occupying the entire ridge and shutting off access to Sevastopol via the Sapper Road that paralleled the roadstead.

SOLMONOV

VICTORIA RIDGE

BLOODY REPULSE ON THE RIDGE 1854

CAREENAGE RAVINE

THE BRITISH TACTIC OF REINFORCING THEIR OUTPOSTS SLOWED THE MOMENTUM OF THE RUSSIAN JUGGERNAUT AND BOUGHT PRECIOUS TIME FOR REINFORCEMENTS TO ARRIVE AND SHORE UP THE MAIN POSITION ON THE RIDGE

LIGHT DIVISION CAMP

Left: The rifle cartridge, or Minié ball, used by the Pattern 1853 Enfield caused large wounds and could shatter bone on impact

"THOSE RUSSIANS BEHIND THE BRITISH LINE WHO REFUSED TO SURRENDER WERE CUT DOWN WHERE THEY STOOD"



INKERMAN BRIDGE

08 GRIPPED BY PANIC
When Russian buglers sounded a retreat at 12pm, many of the Russian infantrymen panicked. They streamed north towards the aqueduct that ran along the roadstead or east to the Tchernaya River. Nearby Allied units fired into the backs of the fleeing soldiers to inflict as many casualties as possible.

03 BRIDGE SLIP UP
A naval detachment instructed to repair the bridge across Tchernaya River during the night preceding the attack failed to undertake the task as instructed. Pioneers laboured furiously at first light of day to complete the task, and Pavlov's division arrived two hours behind schedule as a result.

SHELL HILL

TCHERNAYA RIVER

04 KNOCKED OVER LIKE BOWLING PINS
The Russian officers trained their infantry to fight in deep formations known as battalion columns. The British artillery raked the tightly packed formations inflicting greater casualties than if the battalions had deployed on a wider front.

FORE RIDGE

GUARDS REGIMENTS

HOME RIDGE

2ND DIVISION CAMP

05 DUKE GEORGE'S BRUSH WITH DEATH
George, Duke of Cambridge led his Guards Brigade to reinforce the Sandbag Battery where he had his horse shot from under him. With only 100 men left, he was prepared to fight to the death against overwhelming odds, but his aides convinced him to withdraw.

06 SIEGE GUNS ARE HAULED INTO POSITION
Lord Raglan ordered two 18-pounder guns from the British siege train brought forward to support the British infantry. After a mix-up in which they were taken to the wrong location, they went into action in the late morning, inflicting frightening casualties on the Russians and knocking out many of their guns.

GUARDS CAMP

07 LAST LINE OF DEFENCE
French Chasseurs d'Afrique rode down groups of Russians who had slipped through the British lines. Those Russians behind the British line who refused to surrender were cut down where they stood.



six regiments. Concerned about his left flank, Pennefather directed him to send a substantial portion of those troops to support elements of the 47th (Lancashire) Regiment, which was heavily engaged with the 3,300-strong Ekaterinburg Regiment.

“They came on like ants”

After the first two hours of battle, Pennefather’s strategy was working to perfection. Although there seemed to be no end to the battalion and company columns of Russians that emerged from the fog, the formidable firepower of the British riflemen resulted in heaps of dead wherever they attacked.

With the addition of Pavlov’s guns, the Russians had upwards of 100 pieces in action on Shell Hill and adjacent ground. Russian shells whistled overhead and exploded, sending deadly shrapnel into the thin British ranks. The principal regiments manning the barrier and the Sandbag Battery were Pennefather’s 30th (Cambridge) Regiment and 41st Regiment, respectively. Four battalions from the Lakoutsk Regiment forced the Cambridge troops, who were low on ammunition, to withdraw to the Home Ridge. Meanwhile, Russians from the Okhotsk and Seleginsk regiments repeatedly stormed the Sandbag Battery. Hand-to-hand fighting with bayonets and clubbed muskets occurred as the Russians swarmed over the battery.

The enemy charges broke over the parapet like waves of a storm-tossed sea against a rockbound headland. Pavlov continued to feed fresh troops against the Sandbag Battery. The Russian commanders failed to realise that the position contained little strategic value and their main effort should have been directed toward punching through Pennefather’s Home Ridge breastworks. Brigadier General CB Adams fed reinforcements from his brigade of the Second Division into the fight to bolster the hard-pressed Welch riflemen. Adams was nearly slain by the thrust of a Russian bayonet, but Sergeant George Walters blocked the blow in time.

The Sandbag position changed hands several times during the prolonged Russian onslaught. Pavlov continued to feed fresh men into the fight in a bid to capture the Sandbag position. “They came on like ants,” wrote a British private with the 49th (Hertfordshire) Regiment. Some British soldiers who exhausted their ammunition clobbered the Russians who got inside the battery with stones. The din of battle swelled to new heights. Shells crashed, bullets zipped, buglers and drummers announced fresh attacks and men yelled and screamed at the top of their lungs. The Russians seemed to have won the isolated fight when fresh British reinforcements came rushing up the Post Road at 8.00am.

Lieutenant General Cathcart brought elements of his 4th Division, which were armed with

outdated percussion smoothbore muskets, to assist Pennefather. Brigadier General Thomas Goldie led eight companies from his brigade forwards to bolster the centre. They rushed towards the barrier just in time to check the advance of the Lakoutsk Regiment. By now, the Okhotsk Regiment had captured the Sandbag Battery having driven out Pennefather’s troops.

The Duke of Cambridge, who had arrived on the field with 1,300 Guards in three regiments, launched his crack troops against the Russian left in a bid to retake the Sandbag Battery. Advancing side by side, the 3rd Grenadier Guards and the 1st Coldstream Guards came charging downhill from high ground on the Fore Ridge into the disorganised Russian ranks. They swept the Guards over the lip of a projection known as the Kitspur, sending many of them tumbling into Saint Clement’s Ravine.

The Guards were sucked into the vortex of battle at the Sandbag Battery. Each time a fresh column of Russians attacked, the Guards fired into their ranks and then gave them cold steel. The position changed hands four times during the course of the next hour, but the Guards’s numbers dwindled as the hour wore on.

At about the same time the Guards arrived, French Major General Pierre Bosquet arrived with the vanguard of his division. He held his position on Sapoune Heights to the south until he was satisfied that Gorchakov was not going to launch

Left: British cavalry fiercely clash with Russian artillerymen and the countering Russian horsemen



“THE ENEMY CHARGES BROKE OVER THE PARAPET LIKE WAVES OF A STORM-TOSSED SEA AGAINST A ROCKBOUND HEADLAND”

a major assault against his position. Marching to Pennefather’s aid, he was astonished when two British officers told him his troops were not needed. Bosquet then stationed his men behind the British right just in case they were required.

Spirited counterattacks

Raglan and Pennefather watched the Russian assaults against the British centre with alarm. Raglan sent an aide to Cathcart instructing him to take six companies from his second brigade held in reserve and deploy them between the barrier and the Sandbag Battery to plug a gaping hole in the British line.

Cathcart had plans of his own – he spied elements of the Seleginsk Regiment advancing unchecked in the valley east of Inkerman Ridge. He sent his men charging downhill against the Russian flanking force. It was a foolish move. Once they arrived on the lower ground, the men of the Fourth Division realised they were heavily outnumbered. A Russian sharpshooter fired a shot that struck Cathcart in the head, and he tumbled to the ground, mortally wounded. Bosquet wasted no time and ordered his troops forwards to shore up the British right flank.

The British also faced a major crisis at in their centre. Dannenberg massed 12 battalions for a major assault against the Home Ridge. Four battalions of the Lakoutsk Regiment spearheaded the attack. Major General Charles Denis Bourbaki led his French rifles forward to meet the attack and they blunted some of its force; however, small groups of Russians penetrated the Allied main line and made it to the south slope of Inkerman Ridge.

At the Home Ridge emplacements, the Russians captured three guns belonging to Captain John Turner’s G Battery of the Royal Artillery but thankfully, a small force of French Zouaves deployed nearby launched a spirited counterattack that recovered the guns. The Russian gunners worked furiously on Shell Hill in a concerted effort to break the British centre. In response, Pennefather cobbled together four regiments from his own division and other British divisions to hold Home Ridge.

The arrival of the French disheartened Dannenberg. Although he had a total of 12,000 reserves available with which he could continue the fight, the growing strength of the Allied force led him to doubt whether or not he could make

any further progress. He ordered a retreat at 12pm – both Menshikov and the grand princes protested vehemently, but Dannenberg was unshakeable in his resolve. When the buglers sounded a retreat, many of the Russian soldiers panicked and fled east towards the Tchernaya River rather than west to Sevastopol.

Over the course of five hours of heavy fighting, the Russian forces suffered around 12,000 casualties, whereas the Allies lost about 4,300. Because of their losses, the Allies had to wait for reinforcements to arrive in order to resume offensive actions. The Russian high command, which was already pessimistic about its chances to force the Allies to lift the siege, became even gloomier in their outlook.

Hard battles lay ahead the following year, but Queen Victoria’s soldiers at Sevastopol knew that they were capable of immense feats, as their eventual victory in September 1855 proved.

FURTHER READING

- ★ THE CRIMEAN WAR: A HISTORY BY ORLANDO FIGES
- ★ INKERMAN 1854: THE SOLDIERS’ BATTLE BY PATRICK MERCER
- ★ THE GREAT CRIMEAN WAR: 1854-1856 BY TREVOR ROYLE
- ★ THE BRITISH FIELD MARSHALLS 1736-1997 BY TA HEATHCOTE

Images: Alamy, Getty

REDCOATS IN ACTION

ZULU WAR

This colonial conflict is mostly remembered for the famous defence of Rorke's Drift, but the war was largely characterised by deadly incompetence that exposed the rotten core of imperialism



**"THEY MUST BE THOROUGHLY
CRUSHED TO MAKE THEM BELIEVE IN
OUR SUPERIORITY"**

Lord Chelmsford at the start of the war



During the afternoon of 22 January 1879, a British army officer called Rupert Lonsdale rode his pony towards the well-defended camp of Isandlwana in Zululand, southern Africa. Earlier, he had left the camp with a battalion of troops under commander Lord Chelmsford and was returning to enquire after some rations for his men. He was in for a shock. On his return, he found tents in flames and dead bodies scattered everywhere. Suddenly a figure appeared out of a tent with a bloodstained spear: a Zulu warrior. The Zulus were everywhere, some now wearing the scarlet coats of Lonsdale's dead comrades. Turning his pony and fleeing, he returned to his battalion at 4pm and wearily told Chelmsford: "The Zulus have the camp." The stunned general replied: "But I left 1,000 men to guard the camp." This message was the first news of the worst military disaster to befall the British against a technologically inferior army. It was also a bloody beginning to an infamous colonial conflict: the Anglo-Zulu War.

Colonial arrogance

In the 1870s, Great Britain was at the peak of its global dominance – its might reinforced by commercial, industrial and technological prowess that was projected worldwide by a dominating navy. However, it was not the only imperial power, and competed with other European countries to seize land, particularly in the 'scramble for Africa'.

Sir Bartle Frere was high commissioner for southern Africa and was committed to creating a confederation of South African states that would enable Britain to exploit the huge resources of the region. To achieve this, he would have to suppress the powerful Zulu kingdom of King Cetshwayo, who led a disciplined army of 35,000-40,000 warriors. The Zulus had a reputation for martial prowess, but as they were mostly armed with spears and shields, the British considered them to be inferior. Frere regarded black Africans as less "civilised" than Asians and believed that ending their "reign of barbarism" would allow trade and European ways of life to flourish.

Frere appointed Lieutenant-General Frederic Thesiger, Lord Chelmsford, as the new commander-in-chief of British forces in southern Africa. Chelmsford had recently won a minor conflict against the Xhosa tribe and as such, regarded African armies with complacency. Before the war began, he wrote to an administrator: "Half measures do not answer with natives. They must be thoroughly crushed to make them believe in our superiority. I shall strive to show them how hopelessly inferior they are to us in fighting power, altho' numerically stronger." This overconfidence would cost the British dear.

Although poorly armed, the Zulu army was formidable. While the British assumed their enemy would adopt guerrilla tactics, the Zulus fought open warfare and were trained to fix, surround and annihilate enemy forces. Their

most famous tactic was 'the horns of the buffalo', whereupon warriors formed into the shape of a buffalo's head. The 'horns' (flanks) would encircle and pin the enemy, the 'chest' (centre) would deliver the coup de grace and the 'loins' (reserves) would exploit success or reinforce. Although encircling was by no means a unique tactic, Zulu armies delivered it with great speed and organisation, ever eager to "wash their spears" in the blood of their enemies.

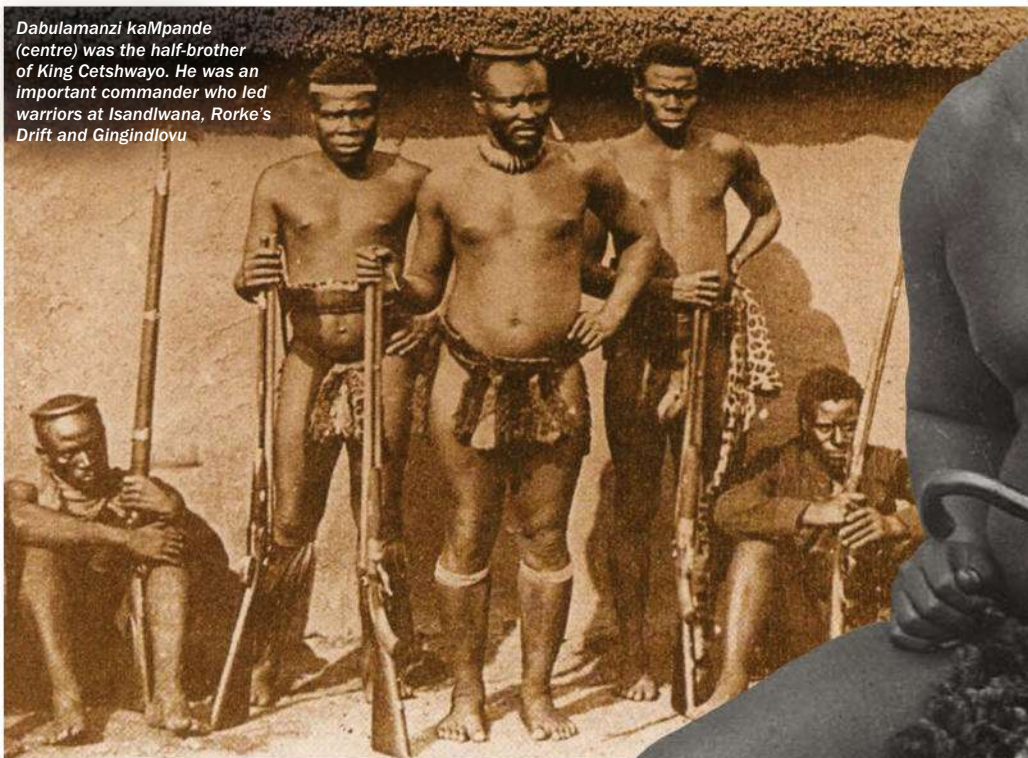
Zulu triumph

In late 1878, Chelmsford was given command of 17,000 men and 20 guns. When he invaded Zululand on 11 January 1879, he divided his force into five columns. Each would advance miles apart, before converging on Cetshwayo's capital of Ulundi. Three of these columns would form the central invasion and of those, it was assumed that number three column would first engage the Zulus. This column crossed the River Buffalo near Rorke's Drift and consisted of 4,700 men (including 1,891 European and 2,400 African troops), more than 2,000 livestock and 302 wagons and carts. Chelmsford accompanied the column and left a small company of the 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot at the advance base at Rorke's Drift, before making camp near the prominent hill of Isandlwana on 20 January. Meanwhile, Cetshwayo mobilised a Zulu force of 24,000 men and divided it into two, with one heading south and the other towards Chelmsford's force.

"THE ZULU ARMY WAS FORMIDABLE. WHILE THE BRITISH ASSUMED THEIR ENEMY WOULD ADOPT GUERRILLA TACTICS, THE ZULUS FOUGHT OPEN WARFARE AND WERE TRAINED TO FIX, SURROUND AND ANNIHILATE ENEMY FORCES"

Left: Standing 2.03 metres tall and wide of girth, Cetshwayo kaMpande was the imposing king of Zululand. Under his rule, the Zulus won a famous victory against the British at Isandlwana

Dabulamanzi kaMpande (centre) was the half-brother of King Cetshwayo. He was an important commander who led warriors at Isandlwana, Rorke's Drift and Gingindlovu



22 JANUARY 1879

BATTLE OF ISANDLWANA

IN ONE OF THE BLOODIEST BATTLES OF THE COLONIAL AGE, THE BRITISH ARMY WAS MASSACRED AT THE HANDS OF THE TECHNOLOGICALLY INFERIOR BUT DETERMINED ZULUS

On 20 January, the central column of Lord Chelmsford's invading force into Zululand camped on the slopes of Isandlwana. The next day, a mounted reconnaissance encountered the Zulus in strength, so Chelmsford split his forces and marched out of camp on the morning of 22 January with a battalion, mounted infantry and

artillery. 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot (2nd Warwickshire) under Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pulleine and mounted troops and artillery under Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford lightly guarded the camp. The British were about to unwittingly encounter a Zulu army that vastly outnumbered them, in their tens of thousands.

"THE BRITISH WERE ABOUT TO UNWITTINGLY ENCOUNTER A ZULU ARMY THAT VASTLY OUTNUMBERED THEM IN THEIR TENS OF THOUSANDS"

01 STUMBLING ACROSS THE ZULUS

Durnford's mounted troops leave the camp to search for the Zulus while the rest of the troops stand down. In the hills to the east of Isandlwana, the horsemen spread out and one troop pursues a party of Zulus before accidentally encountering the entire army. The Zulus immediately charge.

02 HORNS OF THE BUFFALO

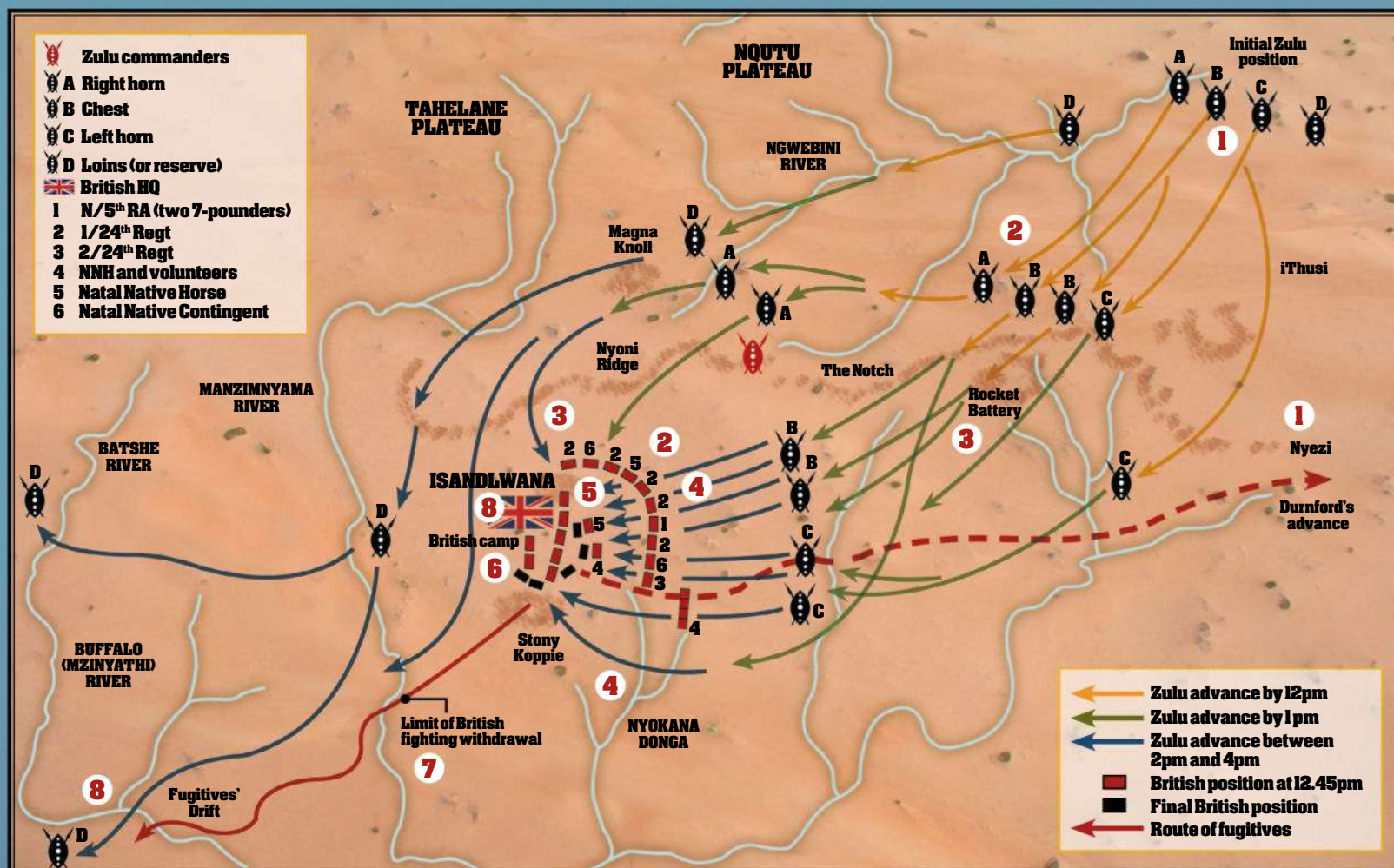
While charging, the Zulu army assembles into its traditional formation, called 'the horns of the buffalo', in some confusion, and heads directly to the British camp. One of Durnford's troops rides back and informs Colonel Pulleine that the camp is to be attacked. Pulleine deploys his men to meet the attack on the east side of the camp.

03 ROCKET DESTRUCTION AND INITIAL RETREAT

As the Zulu army advances, it overwhelms Durnford's rocket troop and takes the equipment while the Royal Artillery crews manage to escape. On the British left, two companies with two guns withdraw to the camp, pausing to fire on the enemy as they retreat.

04 VOLLEY FIRE!

The main body of British troops opens fire on the Zulus of the 'chest', who find themselves impeded by gullies. The Zulus go to ground to avoid the volleys but many are killed. Meanwhile, the 'horns' race to envelope the British flanks, with the companies of the 24th Regiment and Natal Native Contingent collapsing on the right.



05 AMMUNITION PROBLEMS

The Zulus infiltrate between the companies of British infantry and Durnford's irregulars, with the men on the extreme right running out of ammunition and riding back into the camp. This exposes the British flank and the Zulu 'chest' now renews its attack and pushes the British back.

06 SLAUGHTER AMONG THE TENTS

The 'horns' break each British flank and the line quickly collapses into the camp. Groups of soldiers, such as Durnford and his Natal Carbineers, form and fight the encroaching Zulus until their ammunition runs out and they are overwhelmed and killed. Colonel Pulleine is also killed around this time.

07 A CHAOTIC ROUT

The Zulu 'horns' do not completely close around the camp and some soldiers manage to make their way towards Rorke's Drift. However, the Zulus cut off the road and the escaping soldiers of the 24th are forced into the hills, where they are killed. Only mounted men are able to escape south west across a river.

08 FINAL POCKETS OF RESISTANCE

A group of about 60 soldiers from the 24th, under Lieutenant Anstey, are cornered on the banks of a tributary river and wiped out. Other small groups of troops are similarly destroyed. The British have been annihilated and the victorious Zulus now ransack the camp and disembowel their defeated enemies.



The battlefield of Isandlwana was photographed months after, when the British returned to bury the dead. Abandoned wagons are still visible in the foreground

“THE FIRST INVASION OF ZULULAND WAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY TORRID AFFAIR, AND ASTONISHINGLY THE BRITISH WOULD CONTINUE TO REPEATEDLY UNDERESTIMATE THE ZULUS AS THE WAR PROGRESSED”



DESTRUCTION OF THE BONAPARTE DYNASTY

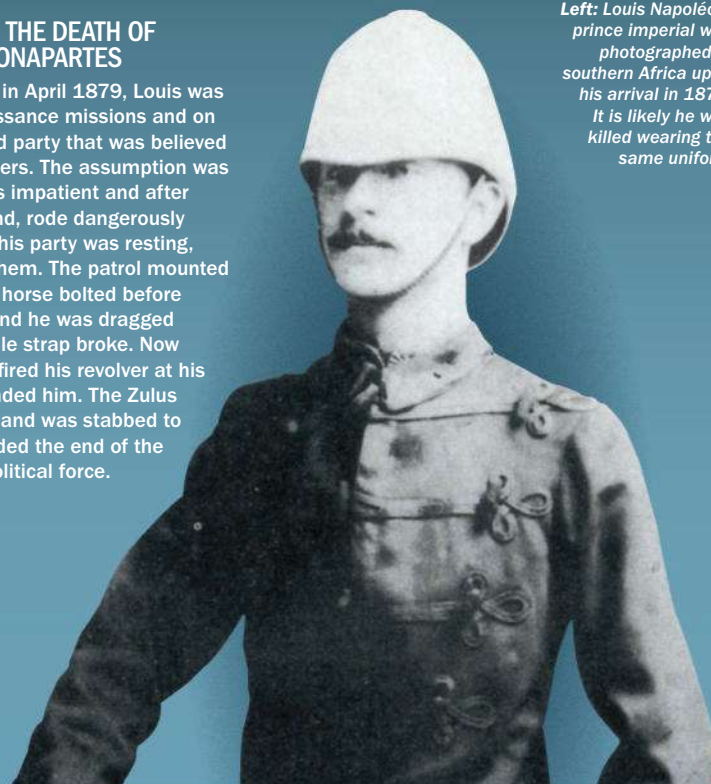
AN UNFORESEEN SIDE EFFECT OF THE ZULU WAR WAS THAT IT CAUSED THE DEATH OF THE HEIR TO THE MOST FAMOUS MARTIAL DYNASTY IN EUROPE: THE BONAPARTES

In 1879, Louis Napoléon, prince imperial, was the former heir to the throne of France. Born in 1856, he was the only son of Emperor Napoleon III and the great-nephew of the legendary Napoleon I. His pampered existence had ended in 1870 when his father lost the Franco-Prussian War and the Bonaparte family was exiled to England. When Napoleon III died in 1873, Louis became the Bonapartists' last hope. Popular with Queen Victoria and eager to continue the martial traditions of his family, Louis joined the British Army and, like his great uncle, trained as an artillery officer. Keen to prove himself as a true Bonaparte in war, he successfully lobbied to serve in southern Africa. In a letter to a friend, Louis wrote: "I am thirsting to smell powder."

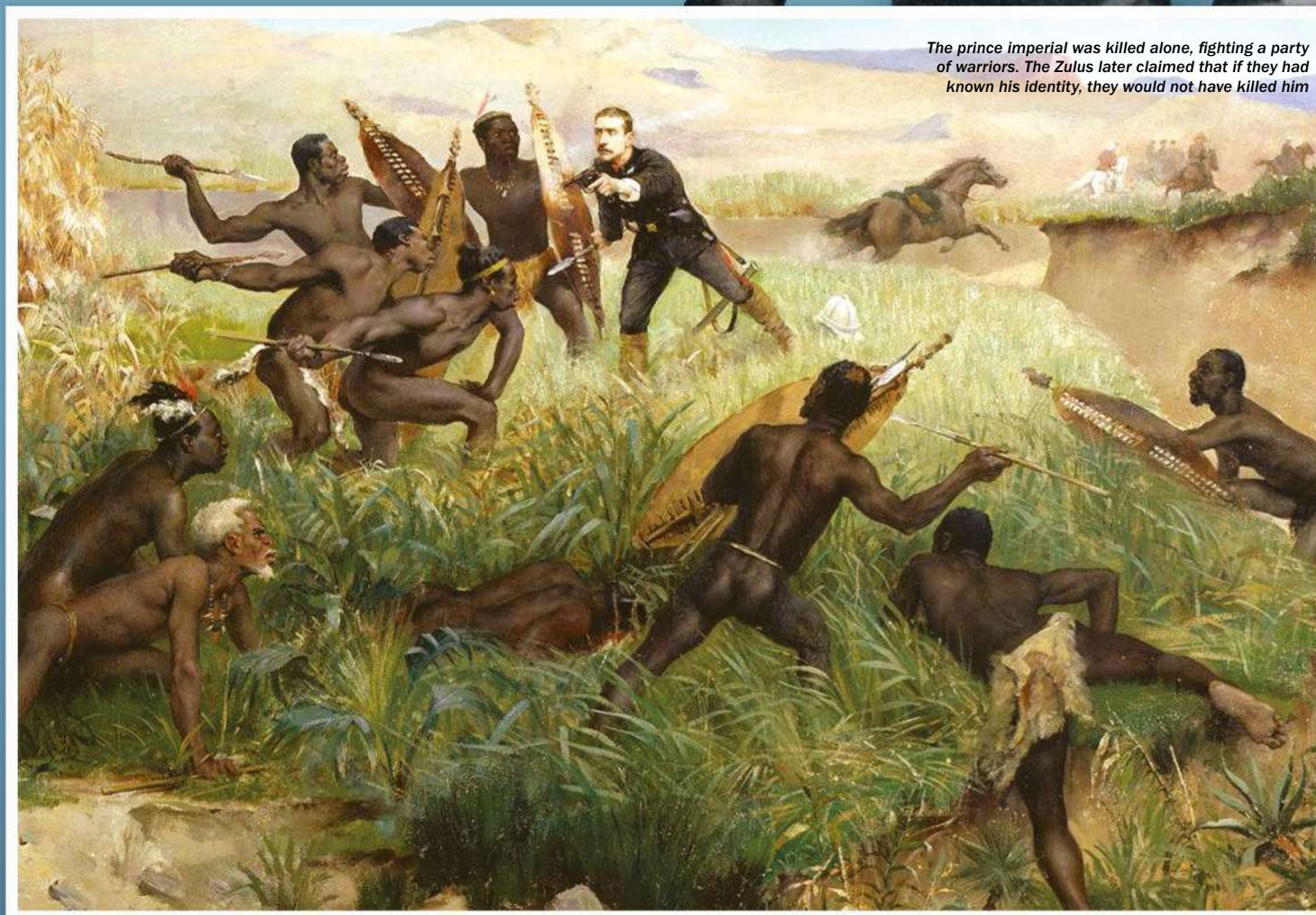
"HIS PAMPERED EXISTENCE HAD ENDED IN 1870 WHEN HIS FATHER LOST THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR AND THE BONAPARTE FAMILY WAS EXILED TO ENGLAND. WHEN NAPOLEON III DIED IN 1873, LOUIS BECAME THE BONPARTISTS' LAST HOPE"

After arriving at Durban in April 1879, Louis was allowed to go on reconnaissance missions and on 1 June, he joined a forward party that was believed to be free of Zulu skirmishers. The assumption was tragically wrong. Louis was impatient and after taking temporary command, rode dangerously deep into Zululand. While his party was resting, about 40 Zulus attacked them. The patrol mounted and rode away but Louis's horse bolted before he could mount properly and he was dragged 100 yards before the saddle strap broke. Now abandoned on foot, Louis fired his revolver at his attackers but spears wounded him. The Zulus pursued Louis until he fell and was stabbed to death. Louis's death heralded the end of the Bonaparte dynasty as a political force.

Left: Louis Napoléon, prince imperial was photographed in southern Africa upon his arrival in 1879. It is likely he was killed wearing the same uniform



The prince imperial was killed alone, fighting a party of warriors. The Zulus later claimed that if they had known his identity, they would not have killed him



On 21 January, patrols spotted the Zulu army in great strength and Chelmsford decided to split his forces, taking the 2nd Battalion, 24th Foot, mounted infantry and four guns to meet and defeat the enemy. He left the 1st Battalion, 24th Foot under Colonel Pulleine to guard the camp. In the early morning of 22 January, Chelmsford's force left Isandlwana, but the enemy had disappeared and the 2nd Battalion began to search the hills. The Zulus bypassed Chelmsford and made straight for Isandlwana. At 10am, the camp was reinforced by mounted troops under Colonel Anthony Durnford, but the defences were inadequate. No attempt was made to laager the wagons into a defensive circle and the troops were told to stand down. Lieutenant Curling remembered that, "...not one of us dreamt there was the least bit of danger... our dinner had been cooked and as there seemed no chance of us being attacked, we broke off and went into our tents."

This complacency was shattered with the sudden sound of gunfire. A troop of mounted volunteers had pursued a small party of Zulus, but then stumbled across the entire army. They charged, forming into their buffalo formation as they went. Pulleine was informed and deployed the 1st Battalion in front of the camp at the base of Isandlwana Hill, in lines that would prove to be overstretched. He also sent a brief message to Chelmsford: "Heavy firing to the left of our camp. Cannot move camp at present." After another vague message at 2pm, Chelmsford decided that the camp was not seriously threatened and did not return – but by that time, the situation was irretrievable.

The Zulus first overwhelmed a rocket troop and then advanced towards the 1st Battalion lines. The British opened fire on the 'buffalo's chest', causing many casualties. The Zulu warriors threw themselves on the

ground, diving for cover. It was reported that one Zulu commander exhorted his warriors: "Never did the King give you this command, 'Lie down upon the ground.' Go and toss them into Maritzburg." The Zulus continued to advance despite the heavy fire. Another man, Mehlokazulu, recalled: "They fired so heavily we had to retire. We kept lying down and rising again." Nevertheless, the British were unable to stop the envelopment of the 'horns' as Curling remembered: "The Zulus split up into a large mass of skirmishers that extended as far around the camp as we could see. We could get no idea of their numbers but the hills were black with them."

The Zulus were now infiltrating between the thinly deployed lines and the British were beginning to run out of ammunition. The battle had been raging in front of the camp for 30 minutes and the infantry used up their supplies of 70 rounds per man. Men like Quartermaster Bloomfield of the 24th, who refused to give out ammunition to soldiers from different regiments, did not help the British. Artilleryman Lieutenant Horace Smith-Dorrien remembered Bloomfield's pedantry when he tried to open an ammunition box, "For heaven's sake, don't take that man, it belongs to our battalion." Smith-Dorrien retorted, "Hang it all, you don't want a requisition slip now do you?" The lack of ammunition forced Durnford's mounted men to ride back into the camp, which exposed the British left flank. This encouraged the Zulus of the 'chest' to renew their attack with one warrior recalling, "They all shouted 'uSuthu' and waving their shields, charged the soldiers with great fury."

The British troops fell back on the camp as the 'horns' broke each flank, causing the lines to collapse. Individual groups fought off the enemy until their ammunition eventually ran out

"THE TERRIBLE DISASTER HAS SHAKEN ME TO THE CENTRE"

Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli

and they were cut down. However, the 'horns' did not entirely close the British camp and some mounted soldiers tried to escape towards Rorke's Drift. Curling recalled: "We trotted off, thinking to take up another position but found it in possession of the enemy who were killing the men as they ran out of their tents." Mehlokazulu remembered, "When the soldiers retired from the camp they did so running... things were then getting very mixed and confused... what with the smoke and dust."

The British were defeated. The Zulus chased and killed all they could find. Only 55 Europeans (including five officers) and 350 African auxiliaries survived the carnage. Symbolically, no officer wearing a scarlet tunic survived – Cetshwayo had ordered his warriors to concentrate on the redcoats. The Zulus had killed 1,329 men: 858 British troops (including Pulleine and Durnford) and 471 Africans, although they had actually suffered the greatest losses with about 2,000 dead. Nonetheless, the Zulu victory was decisive and they ritually disembowelled the British dead before ransacking the camp – capturing over 1,000 rifles and 250,000 rounds of ammunition. They left behind a dreadful sight for Chelmsford's returning force in the evening. With his men forced to sleep among the carnage, Chelmsford feared an invasion of British Natal, and then saw smoke rising in the distance from the garrison he had left behind at Rorke's Drift. British arms had been truly chastised.

The successful defence of Rorke's Drift in the immediate aftermath of Isandlwana became, by



Above: British survivors of Rorke's Drift, taken a few weeks after the battle. Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead VC is seated in the front row, far left

Right: Frederic Theisger, Lord Chelmsford was the commander of British armed forces in southern Africa. Although a popular commander, his incompetence led to the humiliating defeat at Isandlwana

far, the most famous battle of the war. About 140 men managed to fend off 3,000-4,000 Zulus in a ferocious battle on 22-23 January, which restored some sense of British martial pride. 11 Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders, the most ever received for a single action by one regiment. However, the battle is controversial for several reasons. Many agree the VCs were deserved on their own merits, but it has latterly been argued that the high numbers of medals were awarded partly to distract the British public from the debacle at Isandlwana. Furthermore, the British killed as many as 500 wounded Zulus in cold blood after the battle in revenge. Astonishingly, this would prove to be just the preface of a mismanaged, brutalising campaign, as British commanders repeatedly underestimated their Zulu enemy.

Repeated blunders

When Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli heard about what had happened at Isandlwana, he wrote privately: "The terrible disaster has shaken me to the centre." The shocked British government sent seven regiments of reinforcements to Natal along with two artillery batteries, while Lord Chelmsford returned to lick his wounds.

Over the next two months, preparations were made to build a fresh invasion force, but the British were now wary of Zulu attacks in the disputed territories around the Natal-Zululand border, particularly Boer settlements. One of these was the village of Lûneberg, which was located near Zulu kraals (enclosed villages) and was garrisoned by the British on 15 February. Later in the month, a convoy of 18 supply wagons made the journey there to help reinforce the garrison, but progress was hampered by heavy rain, which caused the River Intombe, along their route, to swell. The commander, Captain David Moriarty, could not ford the river and so they had to wait for a break in the weather.



Above: In March 1879 at the Battle of Intombe, the Zulus once again defeated the British. Far from being a swift war, the conflict became a nightmarish embarrassment

On 11 March, Moriarty split his force in two, placing 35 men on the Lûneberg side of the river, with the remaining 70 on the opposite bank with the laagered wagons. At 5am on 12 March, a sentry saw a huge mass of Zulus silently advancing on the laager. Moriarty ran out of his tent with a revolver but he was mortally wounded by Zulu assegais, crying out to his men, "I am done; fire away boys!" Most of the British troops were speared as they emerged from their tents and the survivors fled towards the river.

On the opposite bank, Colour-Sergeant Anthony Booth tried to provide covering fire, "We kept the fire up for about ten minutes; about 200 Zulus came to our side of the river, and as we saw no more of our men crossing

the river, we commenced firing and retiring." Booth led 40 other survivors and fled for four and a half kilometres, pursued by the Zulus. It was another British humiliation with nearly 80 men killed. The Zulus lost only 30 men and the British embarrassments continued.

In late March, Chelmsford ordered Colonel Evelyn Wood to attack the Zulu stronghold on Hlobane Mountain with irregular mounted troops and companies of the 80th Regiment – a total of nearly 700 men. However, as they advanced towards the mountain, the main Zulu army of 20,000 men was spotted arriving to relieve their besieged comrades. The terrified horsemen began a retreat that quickly turned into a rout as many Zulus engaged them.

The horsemen's commander, Lieutenant Colonel Redvers Buller, was forced to lead his men down a steep slope called the 'Devil's Pass' in order to return safely to the fortified camp of Kambula. Lieutenant Browne recalled: "In a moment, the Zulus were among us in the rocks. How I got down I shall never know." Captain Cecil D'Arcy's horse was wounded, and as he looked up, he heard a scream: "I saw the Zulus right in among the white men, stabbing horses and men. I made a jump and got down somehow and ran as hard as I could." The scattered survivors eventually reached Kambula with the British losing ten officers and 80 European troops, while the casualties of the African levies probably ran into the hundreds.

The British resurgence

The defeat at Hlobane forced the British to strengthen the fortifications at their camp in Kambula, which was garrisoned by 2,086 troops. There were wagon walls reinforced with mealie bags, trenches, an earthwork bastion on a small rise in the middle of the hill and an additional laager to house 2,000 cattle. These precautions ensured that the disaster of Isandlwana would not be repeated. On 29 March, the day after the Hlobane debacle, five huge columns of

THE MARTINI HENRY RIFLE

THE FAMOUS AND DEADLY WEAPON OF CHOICE FOR BRITISH COLONIAL CONQUESTS

CHAMBER

Inside the chamber there was a tumbler that pivoted on top of the trigger and cocked the mechanism. When the trigger was squeezed, the tumbler was released, which allowed the firing pin to shoot forward and strike the primer.

CARTRIDGE

The .45 brass cartridge contained a heavy lead bullet that was powerful enough to stop a buffalo. Ammunition came in paper packets of ten rounds and each soldier carried 70 rounds on his person.

LEVER

The lever was an innovative design feature that loaded the rifle. It was lowered to empty the chamber and a cartridge was loaded on the exposed breechblock and thumbed home.

BARREL

The barrel was 84 centimetres long and the rifling consisted of a heptagonal barrel with seven grooves. It had one twist in 56 centimetres, which enabled it to be considered a superior firearm.

The standard British infantry rifle in 1879 was the breech-loading Martini Henry. Although it was not the first rifle of its kind, the Martini Henry was considered to be the first firearm to compare with the longbow of the Hundred Years' War in terms of quickness and efficiency. In expert hands, it was accurate up to 900 metres, with battalion volley fire starting at 550-730 metres. Even an average shot could score hits at 275 metres and its rate of fire was 12 rounds per minute.



During the Battle of Ulundi, the Zulu kingdom literally went up in flames as the British set fire to the kraals, that made up the capital of King Cetshwayo

the Zulu army advanced from the south east in the familiar 'horns of the buffalo' formation. Cetshwayo, fearing another Rorke's Drift, later claimed that he gave his commanders strict orders not to attack the camp, but the younger warriors were elated by the success at Hlobane the previous day and prematurely charged, forcing the entire army into the fray.

At 300 yards, the British opened up with rifle and artillery fire as one Zulu warrior remembered: "The bullets from the white men were like hail falling about us. It was fearful, no one could face them without being struck." Despite this failure, the left 'horn' and 'chest' of the buffalo managed to take the cattle laager in a subsequent attack, using captured rifles and forcing Wood to withdraw closer to the fort. However, the British rallied and two companies of the 90th Regiment started firing on Zulus from a hill position.

The enemy attack began to falter and Lieutenant Slade recaptured the cattle kraal, "Sword in hand we went in at the double... and a right royal reception we gave them." Buller's horsemen were then released and the Zulus were slaughtered in a vengeful rout. D'Arcy recalled, "We followed them for 12 kilometres, butchering the brutes all over the place. I told the men, 'No quarter boys and remember yesterday'." Kambula changed the course of the war and was a reverse Isandlwana. As many as 2,000 Zulus were killed, compared to just 18 British, who had fired an average of 31 rounds per man in a battle that raged for hours.

On the same day as Kambula, Chelmsford crossed the River Tugela with 5,250 troops to relieve a British base at Eshowe, and

"NO WHITES EVER DID, OR EVER COULD, SKIRMISH IN THE MAGNIFICENT PERFECTION OF THE ZULUS. THEY BOUNDED FORWARD FROM ALL SIDES, GLIDING LIKE SNAKES THROUGH THE GRASS" **Captain Hart**

camped at Cetshwayo's kraal at Gingindlovu, constructing a formidable laager. At 6am on 2 April, about 11,000 Zulus appeared and were gunned down by rockets, Gatling guns and rifles. Despite the slaughter, the British were beginning to admire the tenacity of their enemy. Captain Hart recalled, "No whites ever did, or ever could, skirmish in the magnificent perfection of the Zulus. They bounded forward from all sides, gliding like snakes through the grass." Lieutenant Milne was more succinct: "They are plucky fellows and a brave enemy." The Zulus were routed in one hour, leaving possibly 1,000 dead with only 14 British killed.

A burning capital

With a newly restored confidence, Chelmsford invaded Zululand again on 1 June with 17,000 men, and by July, the British had reached the capital of Ulundi. For the final attack, Chelmsford had a force of 5,124 troops against 12,000-15,000 dispirited Zulus. The British

infantry formed into a huge square, four ranks deep and marched in this formation surrounded by cavalry, towards the various kraals that made up the capital.

The Zulus expertly encircled the formation, but when the British set fire to the kraals, Private George Turnham remembered: "No sooner did the Zulus see smoke than they came running out of their cover like a swarm of bees completely around us." Nonetheless, the Zulus were checked by the square's intense firepower. Corporal William Roe said the fire, "...did fearful execution, for we could see their heads, legs, and arms flying in the air. They were falling down in heaps, as though they had been tipped out of carts." The Zulus did not engage the square and fled. A warrior said shortly afterwards, "Our hearts were broken at Kambula. I did not go within shot of you this time." A cavalry charge by the 17th Lancers completed the rout and flames consumed Ulundi. Lieutenant Slade watched the conflagration, "It was a grand sight and we all felt that at last the power of the Zulus had been destroyed."

Slade was correct, the war was over and Cetshwayo was captured and exiled, but there were no real winners of the conflict. Chelmsford never held a significant command again because of Isandlwana, while Frere never achieved his ambition of a confederated South Africa – Zululand was annexed and broken up. The tragic price of this unnecessary conflict was the death of thousands of people: British soldiers far from home and Zulu warriors defending their land and independence. All were lost for the dubious cause of imperial greed.

RORKE'S DRIFT

In January 1879, 150 soldiers fought off over 3,000 Zulu warriors, earning 11 Victoria Crosses and a place in history





The siege at Rorke's Drift, an isolated rural outpost on the Natal border with Zululand, came in the wake of one of the British Army's most shocking defeats – the massacre at Isandlwana, which unfolded on 22 January 1879.

At this time, Britain controlled two provinces in South Africa – the Cape and Natal – and in 1877 had annexed the Transvaal from Boer settlers, thereby inheriting a long-running border dispute with the Zulu kingdom. The British High Commissioner felt this increasingly powerful realm, united under King Cetshwayo kaMpande and with a fighting force approaching 40,000, posed a threat to his nascent confederacy of states, so he set about engineering a military conflict.

Bloody dawn at Isandlwana

On 11 January 1879, the British launched a pre-emptive strike at Zululand under the command of the experienced African campaigner Lieutenant-General Lord Chelmsford. He assembled three columns, taking command of the central column himself, which he proposed would bear the brunt of the fighting with the two flanking columns poised to provide support and prevent the Zulu army slipping past him.

Chelmsford's main column comprised regular infantry in the form of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 24th Regiment, along with a battery of seven-pounder field guns, a regiment of the indigenous Natal Native Contingent and a light cavalry troop that included a number of local volunteers.

On his way to Zululand, Chelmsford stopped at Rorke's Drift, once a farm belonging to the intrepid pioneer Jim Rorke and latterly a Swedish missionary station. The post included two main buildings, a

cookhouse and a pair of cattle corrals, or kraals. One building Chelmsford pressed into service as a hospital, the other he transformed into a storehouse. He neglected to fortify the position, though he left a small garrison to man the post, from which he would provision his forces during the campaign.

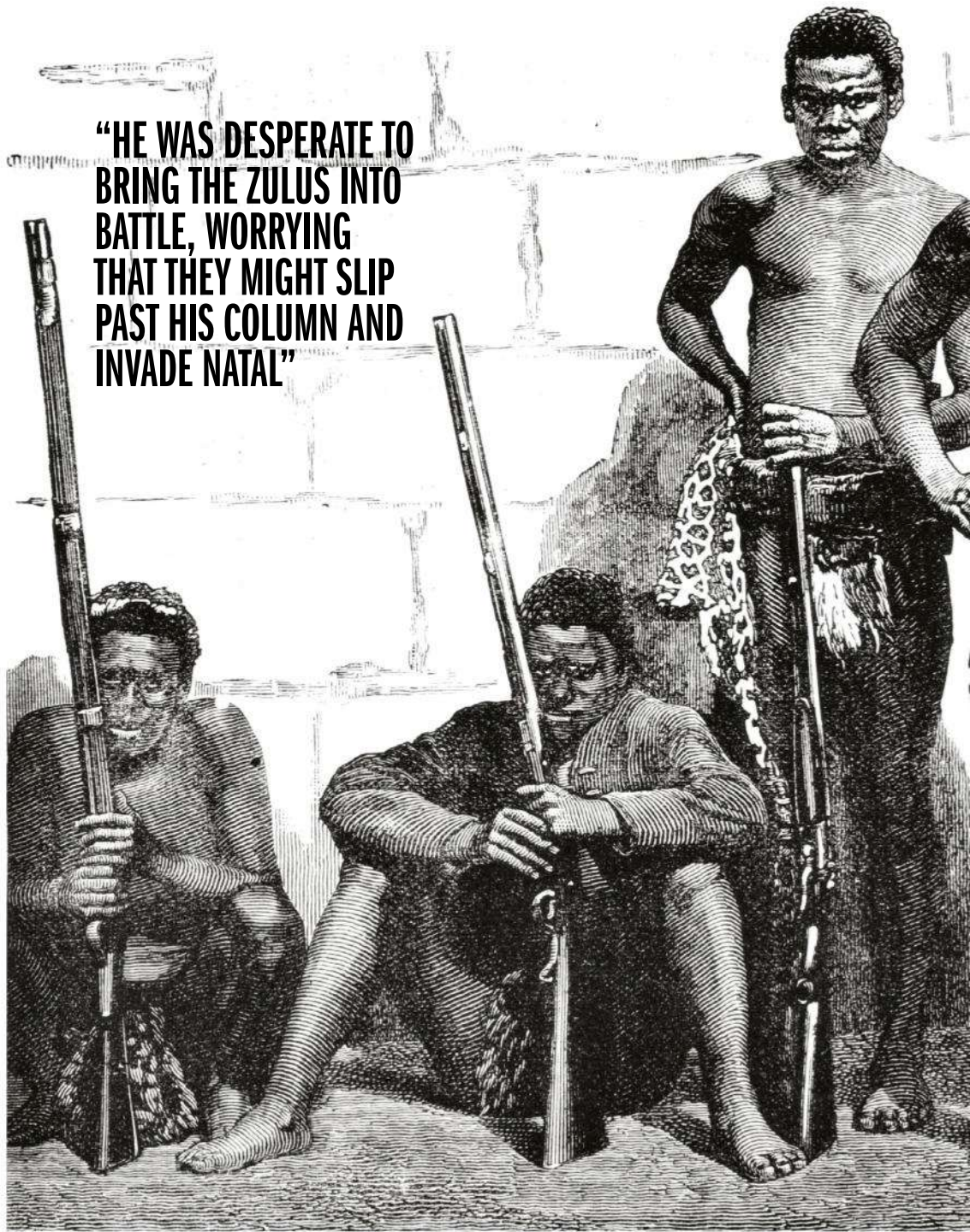
His offensive began with the crossing of the Mzinyathi River from Rorke's Drift on the morning of 11 January. By 20 January, Chelmsford, struggling over rough terrain, had reached the sphinx-like rocky crest at Isandlwana, setting up camp on the forward slope. As at Rorke's Drift, he elected not to fortify his position, reasoning that he would not stay in the vicinity for very long. He was desperate to bring the Zulus into battle, worrying that they might slip past his column and invade Natal.

When his reconnaissance troops ran into a Zulu force that quickly melted away into the bush, this seemed to confirm his suspicions – the Zulus were avoiding battle. Resolute in his pursuit, Chelmsford decided to flush the army out. However, he didn't realise his men had encountered a skirmish unit and that the main Zulu army had already identified his position at Isandlwana. Unknown to the British commander, it was forming up in a valley just a few miles away.

Making a crucial mistake, Chelmsford split his force, leaving around 1,700 men behind while he sallied forth in a bid to locate the main Zulu army and force them into combat. While he was more than ten miles away, searching in vain for Cetshwayo, the main Zulu army readied itself for an assault on Isandlwana.

If properly arranged in defence of a fortified camp, the diminished British force would have stood an excellent chance of holding off the Zulu attack, but Chelmsford's negligence and the complacency of the officers still in camp left the British defenders in a perilous position. Believing that Chelmsford was out corralling the main Zulu army and that the warriors emerging in front of the British lines at Isandlwana formed only a small unit, the residing officers deployed their men in an open formation around a mile ahead of the main camp. They were confident that their firing arc, featuring the new Martini-Henry breech-loading rifles, would be strong enough to scatter the enemy.

"HE WAS DESPERATE TO BRING THE ZULUS INTO BATTLE, WORRYING THAT THEY MIGHT SLIP PAST HIS COLUMN AND INVADE NATAL"



THE HEROES OF RORKE'S DRIFT

ELEVEN VICTORIA CROSSES WERE AWARDED TO THE DEFENDERS AT RORKE'S DRIFT, INCLUDING...

LIEUTENANT JOHN CHARD

Age: 31
Commissioned into the Royal



Engineers in 1868, Chard did not arrive at Rorke's Drift until three days before the battle. Left in temporary charge of the garrison by Major Spalding, he belied his lack of battle experience by organising the defences and showing great leadership.

LIEUTENANT GONVILLE BROMHEAD

Age: 33
Attaining



his officer's commission three years after Chard, Bromhead was appointed second-in-command once Major Spalding had left Rorke's Drift, earning his VC by showing great gallantry throughout the defence. He was subsequently promoted to brevet Major.

JAMES DALTON

Age: 46
Having retired from the Army, Dalton



had enrolled as Acting Assistant Commissary with the British Force and superintended the organisation of the defence. He was among those receiving the first wave of attack. Although wounded, he continued to engage in the action.

CORPORAL CHRISTIAN SCHIESS

Age: 22
An NCO in the



Natal Native Contingent, his ill-fitting boots had forced him into the Rorke's Drift hospital, though he took a position on the perimeter once the defences were set. Despite taking a bullet to his foot and having his hat shot off, he dislodged several Zulus from a mealie bag barricade.

PRIVATE FREDERICK HITCH

Age: 22
Alongside



fellow VC winner Corporal Allen, Hitch kept communications at the hospital open, thereby allowing patients to be removed. Though wounded in the shoulder, he worked through the night, dispensing ammunition to his comrades before he finally collapsed.

PRIVATE HENRY HOOK

Age: 28
Fighting along with



John Williams VC, he held out in the hospital for over an hour, fighting until his ammo ran out. As the Zulus advanced through the building, these two burst through three partition walls and helped eight patients out to safety.



An engraving depicting Zulu prince kaMpande is seen here with warriors accompanied by their firearms

However, this was no mere skirmish unit – it was a muster of 20,000 spear-brave warriors, the cream of Cetshwayo's fighting force, and they were ready to bathe their spears in the invaders' blood. Forming up in a traditional 'horns of the bull' formation, the Zulus outflanked the British line, overwhelming the defenders with sheer weight of numbers. The superior British firepower was rendered redundant and a slaughter ensued.

Garrison fortifications

The men garrisoned at Rorke's Drift heard the distant gunfire at Isandlwana and cursed their luck. Many of them would have preferred what they presumed was a glorious victory over in Zululand to the interminable boredom of camp life in their barren outpost. How quickly their opinions changed. A string of refugees from the massacre began filtering back to their position,

many frantic with panic, leaving the officers in command with a decision to make. Should they defend the Drift or flee?

The decision fell to Lieutenant John Chard, who'd been appointed the commanding officer by the garrison chief, Major Spalding, in the wake of his departure earlier in the day to chivvy along a group of reinforcements that had failed to arrive. Lieutenant Chard was an engineer and had yet to see action, while his second in command, Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead, though possessed of some experience, had never shone in battle.

As they discussed options, a Commissariat officer, James Dalton, spoke up in favour of a defensive action, pointing out that with the wounded men from the hospital slowing them down, the Zulu force would overtake them and, out in the open, they'd have little chance. Chard agreed – they would make a stand.

MYTHS OF RORKE'S DRIFT

A NUMBER OF FALSITIES HAVE SPRUNG UP AROUND THIS LEGENDARY BATTLE, WITH MORE THAN A FEW PERPETUATED BY THE STIRRING 1964 FILM *ZULU*...

THE WELSH WON THE DAY

Though the film pitches the 24th Regt as Welsh, most of the defenders were in fact English. The regiment was based in Brecon in South Wales but, according to one source, 49 of the defenders at Rorke's Drift were English and just 14 were Welsh.

MEN OF HARLECH

A highlight in the 1964 film is the singing contest between the opposing forces in which the defenders belt out a rousing rendition of *Men Of Harlech*. This did not happen, though the sing-off constitutes a rousing and memorable piece of cinema.

THE ZULU SUICIDE BID

In another fantastic moment of cinema, the Zulu chief in the film sends out his men in a suicide mission to test the numbers of British rifles. This did not happen. It should also be noted that the Swedish missionary had already left his post prior to the attack and did not go mad. Neither was Pte Hook a drunkard.

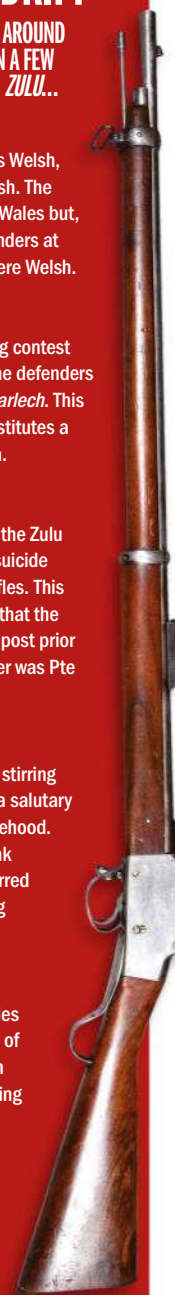
THE ZULUS SALUTE THE DEFENDERS

A highlight in the film, no doubt, but the stirring moment when the retreating Zulus sing a salutary song to the beleaguered victors is a falsehood. War-torn and weary, the Zulu troops slunk away under cover of night, no doubt spurred on by Chelmsford's relief column arriving from Isandlwana.

ZULUS WITH MARTINI-HENRY RIFLES

The Zulus were definitely armed with rifles and muskets but they did not boast any of the new Martini-Henry rifles looted from the dead at Isandlwana. The Zulus fighting at Rorke's Drift had not engaged in the fighting earlier that day and therefore could not have picked up any of these powerful weapons.

Right: The Martini-Henry rifle was the formidable weapon available to the British garrison



The British troops soon got to work fortifying their position. The garrison was comprised of B Company from the 2nd Battalion of the 24th – usually containing 100 men, at Rorke's Drift B Company numbered only 95 men on duty. There were 30 wounded in the hospital, along with Surgeon Reynolds and three men from the Army Hospital Corps, and somewhere between 100-300 indigenous troops from the NNC with their white officers.

This force soon got the defences up and running; a barricade of biscuit boxes and mealie bags was run from a well-built stone kraal on the eastern edge of the camp along to the far western edge of the hospital. This barrier was around three-feet high and sat atop a ledge, giving the defenders a barrier that stood up to eight-feet tall all along the northern rim. A second barrier of mealie bags, which also incorporated two wagons, was run along the



RORKE'S DRIFT

This spirited – if romanticised – depiction of the battle by Alphonse de Neuville shows the garrison defence in vibrant detail



position's southern border, linking the hospital and the storehouse.

With upwards of 400 manning the barricades, the defences looked sound. The Zulu army consisted of light infantry, capable of swift manoeuvres out in the open, but with no artillery and inferior firearms they were ill placed to overrun a well-fortified position. However, around 4pm things took a turn for the worse.

The Zulu force arrives

A contingent of Natal Native Horse had come galloping up to Rorke's Drift, yet more fugitives from Isandlwana, but their white officer apologised to Chard, saying he could not control his men, who had ignored their orders and rode off into the distance. Their departure demoralised the NNC troops who also deserted their positions. This left just 150 men to defend the entire post.

The defenders now faced a far more perilous situation, prompting Chard to construct an inner defensive wall – a biscuit-box barricade that ran in a northerly direction from the left edge of the storehouse to the northern barricade – in case his men could not hold the entire perimeter. The first Zulu contingents now came into view. Around 500 to 600 men from the iNuluyengwe Regiment arrived at roughly 4.30pm, moving in open formation from the south before charging the defenders.

Chard ordered the British to fire at 500 yards and though initially erratic, the Martini-Henry fusillade soon found its range and the first Zulu attack faltered, forcing the iNuluyengwe to veer off along the western rim towards the northerly approach. They ducked into cover in front of the hospital, while others swung to the east and tucked in behind the cookhouse and ovens, where they opened fire with their own rifles.

Before long the hospital came under attack. This was the station's weakest position as the troops had not been able to finish the barricade in front of the building, while the attackers were afforded good cover by long grass that ran right up to the British defences.

The Zulus suffered heavy fire, but were soon on the defenders, forcing them into hand-to-hand combat, where it was assegai versus bayonet. Here the defenders had the advantage of a longer reach and the first Zulu rush was hurled back by a bayonet counter-charge led by Bromhead himself.

Approaching 5pm, the main Zulu force appeared, numbering around 3,000 men under the command of Prince Dabulamanzi kaMpande. The majority of these warriors had acted as a reserve at Isandlwana and were now eager to earn their own share of war glory and loot. Snipers took up positions on Shiyane Hill to the south and opened fire on the British perimeter. Their weapons were out-dated and they lacked decent ammunition and powder, but their barrage took its toll and a number of defenders were hit. It's estimated that around one-third of the garrison's total losses came from sniper fire.

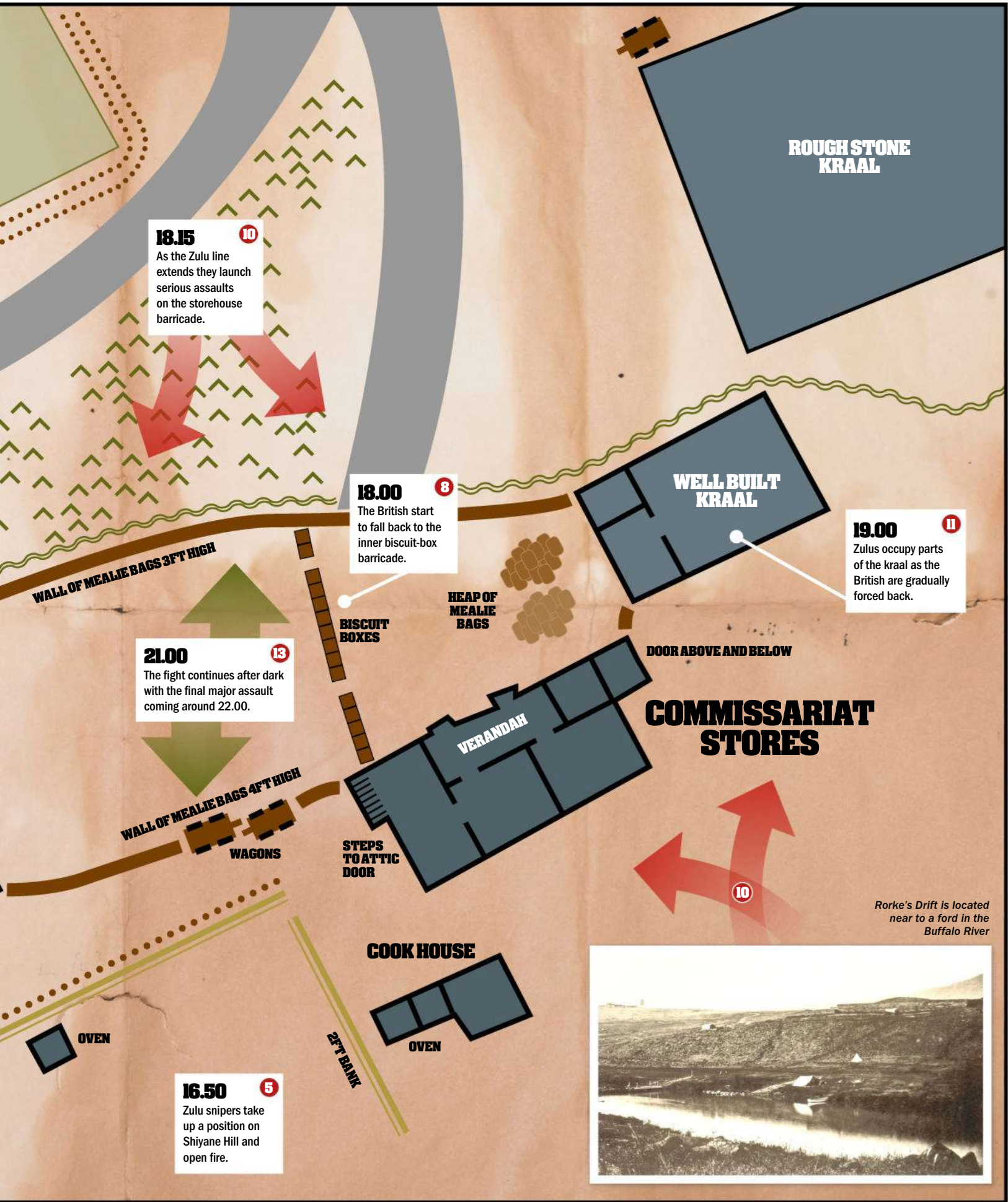
Fight for the hospital

With the main force in position, the Zulu army continued its assault on the north-facing front of Rorke's Drift and the battle around the hospital intensified, spilling onto the veranda.

BATTLE OF RORKE'S DRIFT

AN HOUR-BY-HOUR ACCOUNT OF THE ATTACK ON THE BRITISH STATION





* Estimated timings

The Zulus sustained a constant volley of attacks and the British began to feel the pinch as the combatants came eyeball to eyeball, with the attackers desperately grabbing at the British muzzles and trying to rip them from the soldiers' hands.

During this second phase of combat, a number of individuals demonstrated extraordinary courage, not least Private Fred Hitch and the Commissariat officer, James Dalton, who according to Hitch was, "fearlessly exposing himself... cheering the men and using his own rifle most effectively." Lieutenants

ZULU WARRIOR THE AFRICAN FIGHTING FORCE



ASSEGAI
This stabbing weapon was usually around 60cm long and was deadly in close combat.

HEADDRESS
Warriors wore elaborate headdresses to identify with their battle groups.

BASIC CLOTHING
In the heat of the African day, only simple animal skins needed to be worn, with rarer skins being worn by the higher ranking Zulu warriors.

SHIELD
Made from cowhide, these were also used as weapons in their own right, and their colour also identified the warrior's regiment.

Chard and Bromhead, meanwhile, proved their mettle, constantly moving along the line, plugging gaps and reinforcing weak points in the defensive line.

Non-combatants like Surgeon Reynolds and Chaplain Smith also showed great bravery, chivvying the men and distributing ammunition. Still, the pressure was beginning to take its toll and the casualties from the sniper fire on Shiyane Hill began to mount. At around 6pm Chard ordered his men to abandon the weak barricade in front of the hospital and retire to the inner biscuit-box barricade.

This was a sound strategic move, protecting the men from the sniper fire, while the inner biscuit-box barricade proved a formidable

barrier. Nevertheless, the retreat left the hospital and the wounded men inside seriously exposed. It was now down to the patients and half a dozen able-bodied men to try and hold this now-isolated position. The hospital fight would emerge as one of the most famous engagements at Rorke's Drift.

As dusk fell, the Zulus launched yet another attack, hoping to catch the retreating British line on the hop while also bidding to take possession of the hospital building. During the retreat, or sometime after, Private Hitch was shot in the shoulder and Bromhead leapt to his aid, firing his revolver at a man poised to spear him. Bromhead exchanged weapons with the wounded Hitch who fought on with a revolver for as long as he could. He then ferried ammunition to the other men before finally passing out.

In the hospital, around 20 armed patients and the six able-bodied soldiers kept up a steady fire, shooting through the windows and firing-holes knocked into the outside wall. Such was the press of Zulu numbers, however, the besiegers were soon right outside the hospital walls, grabbing at the British rifles or else firing their own weapons through the exposed firing-holes. Here Private Joseph Williams is said to have shot 14 of his enemies before he was finally overcome.





Lieutenant Chard
pictured with his
Victoria Cross

For all their bravery, the defenders could not repel the Zulus who, once massed outside the hospital, set fire to its thatched roof, sending plumes of reeking smoke rolling into the building and inviting the now famous words of Private Henry Hook: "We were pinned like rats in a hole."

Pinned or not, it was here that Hook demonstrated extreme courage and saved the lives of many of the sick men, emerging as the sole defender in one of the rooms after the other men had fled. Eventually, he too was forced to fall back as black smoke engulfed the room, forcing him to abandon an NNC patient who the Zulus speared to death.

In the next room, a furious fight ensued as assegai and bayonet clashed. Hook received a spear to the head, his helmet deflecting its

killing power and leaving him with just a scalp wound. With only one door in or out of this room the defenders were in danger of being burned alive, so they hastily grabbed a pickaxe and forced a hole in the wall through which they escaped to the next room to start yet another ragged firefight.

Hook and his fellow defenders gradually worked their way eastward through the rooms and at one point had to break one patient's recently mended leg as they scrambled their way toward the final room in the building. Squashed into this space, they noted that the only escape route was a small window that opened into the yard, which had become a no-man's land now that the main British force had retreated behind the biscuit-box barricade.

If they remained in the building, they were doomed, so the able-bodied ferried the patients out through the window and into the yard where they had to crawl towards the safety of the biscuit-box barricade. One delirious patient refused to be moved and the defenders had to leave him to his fate.

Sunset and aftermath

Even as the battle raged inside the hospital, the Zulus had kept up a constant pressure on the cattle kraal, the storehouse and the biscuit-box barricade. At one point Corporal Christian Schiess, a NNC soldier who'd been in hospital before taking up a defensive position, took a bullet in the foot but still showed ferocious courage by abandoning the safety of the barricade to stand atop the wall and fire down on his assailants. When his hat was blown off by musket fire, he bent to retrieve it before bayoneting two men and shooting another dead.

The Zulu pressure was as intense as ever, as some brave warriors sought to fire the storehouse thatch and almost succeeded. One attacker was even shot down just as he lifted his torch. Once darkness fell, Assistant Commissary Walter Dunne formed a stack of spare mealie bags into a towering redoubt from which the defenders could fire down on their attackers.

Ordinarily, Zulus preferred not to fight after dark — a time of malevolent spiritual forces — yet their attacks continued with great intensity even as the sun set. As they forced the defenders out of the stone kraal, the British were left holding on to a tiny portion of their original position. But the British, though exhausted, were not done yet and they had luck on their side.

With the hospital now fully ablaze, the Zulu attackers were illuminated whenever they tried to move across the no-man's land inside the Rorke's Drift perimeter. Trooper Lugg of the Natal Mounted Police recalled that, "We poured bullets into them like hail. We could see them falling in scores." Still, the British could not hold out much longer. They had 20,000 rounds of ammunition at the battle's commencement — by the end, just 900 remained.

The final determined assaults came at sometime between 9-10pm and then the fighting finally abated. The last shots were fired at around 4am on the morning of 23 January. The Zulus had suffered terribly, with the British Martini-Henry weapons causing casualties estimated at up to 1,000 men. The British, meanwhile, lost just 15 men, with ten badly wounded, two of them mortally. It was a surprisingly small number — the thin red line had held firm.



The survivors of Rorke's
Drift, photographed
after the battle

THE AFTERMATH

THE TWO BATTLES ON 22 JANUARY PROVOKED A QUICK CONCLUSION TO THE ANGLO-ZULU WAR

Though the victory at Rorke's Drift did much to assuage the horror of the defeat at Isandlwana, it was not a strategically significant moment. Instead it demonstrated the efficacy of the British soldier if properly marshalled. Events of 22 January 1879 cost both sides dearly, though this proved harder to bear for King Cetshwayo's citizen army than it did for the Imperial British war machine. Though defeat at Isandlwana shattered Chelmsford's original invasion plan, he was granted fresh troops who pushed into Zululand. They scored a devastating victory against Cetshwayo's forces at the Battle of Kambula in March of the same year before winning the decisive Battle of Ulundi on 4 July. Cetshwayo was sent into exile and the Anglo-Zulu war had run its course.

"THE ZULUS HAD SUFFERED TERRIBLY, WITH THE BRITISH MARTINI-HENRY WEAPONS CAUSING CASUALTIES ESTIMATED AT UP TO 1,000 MEN"

END OF THE THIN RED LINE

Campaigns in India and Africa saw the British Army switching to lighter, less obtrusive battle uniforms. A remarkable era was drawing to a close...

After weeks under siege, trigger fingers were understandably itchy. There had been skirmishes and sorties, but the detachment of Cameron Highlanders, plus two companies of Sudanese soldiers from the 9th Egyptian Battalion, garrisoned in the frontier fort were more than eager to break out en masse. Constantly peppered with sniper-fire from an imposing black rock overlooking the fort's southern wall, they had recently endured increasingly accurate artillery shelling too, one taking the fort's Gardner machine

Field Marshal Francis Grenfell, the 1st Baron Grenfell, field commander at Ginnis, who in 1874 almost quit the army and even gave away his uniform!

gun temporarily out of action. Given that they had been pinned down for so long, when the opportunity to attack came on 30 December 1885, a relieved fury was unleashed...

Some four years earlier, when Muhammad Ahmad proclaimed himself Mahdi, meaning The Guided One or Messiah, of all Muslims of Sudan in 1881, a vigorous popular uprising began in the country.

The eccentric, unstable General Charles Gordon arrived in the key Sudan city of Khartoum early in 1884 to oversee its evacuation. Instead, defying his orders, he chose to attempt to defend it. What should have been an exodus turned into a siege. After 10 months, when virtually everything edible, including rats, had been consumed, the besiegers took advantage of the Nile's low waters in January 1885 and attacked. The starving defenders offered little resistance; the

city fell, with more than 10,000 soldiers and civilians killed, including Gordon.

Relief columns sent to Khartoum arrived two days too late. In retreating, these columns left behind a series of garrisoned forts along the border. One such fort, near the towns of Kosha and Ginnis, also came under Mahdist siege late in 1885. In the field, it fell to the man appointed Sirdar (Commander-in-Chief) of the Egyptian Army the previous spring, Francis Grenfell, to liberate the garrison.

Grenfell's force consisted of two infantry brigades and a cavalry brigade. The mounted troops included elements from both the British and Egyptian Camel Corps, plus a British Mounted Infantry company, and Egyptian Cavalrymen. Further firepower came along the Nile from the armed river boat Lotus.

While awaiting relief in Khartoum, it had been Gordon's view that the mere sight of

THE
MAHDIST
CAMPAIGN

HICKS' EXPEDITION FAILS SEP 1883

British officer Colonel William Hicks leaves Khartoum with a hastily trained, mostly Egyptian force to counter the Mahdists, but in November he and his men are massacred at El Obeid.

FROM SUPERVISOR TO LOOSE CANNON FEB 1884

Gordon arrives in Khartoum. While evacuation of women, children and the sick begins, the capricious Gordon effectively re-writes his brief, proclaiming as a matter of honour he will defend the city.

CHANGE AT THE TOP #1 JUNE 1885

The Mahdi dies of typhus. One of his main lieutenants, Abdullah Ibn-Mohammed, takes command, assuming the title of Khalifa or 'successor of the Mahdi'.

THE SUDAN ERUPTS AUG 1881

Mohammed Ahmed declares himself Mahdi over Sudan, instigating a quickly and enthusiastically supported rebellion against Egyptian rule. As protectorate governors of Egypt, Britain cannot escape involvement.

THE NILE EXPEDITION OCT 1884

Under pressure from the public, and Queen Victoria, Gladstone's government finally sanctions a relief force for Khartoum. Commanded by General Garnet Wolseley it begins to navigate up the Nile.

A SHOCKING END JAN 1885

Khartoum falls. Gordon is killed, his head removed and presented to the Mahdi. The relief force, a small detachment of which is wearing British Army red, arrives two days too late.

SEND FOR GORDON JAN 1884

Major-General Charles Gordon, a former Governor-General of Sudan, is despatched from London to assess and oversee a quick and speedy withdrawal of remaining Egyptian forces from the region.

AT THE DOUBLE DEC 1884

With the situation increasing desperate for Khartoum, Wolseley splits the relief force in two, sending a column across the desert to avoid the river's Great Bend to save time.



AN ASTONISHING GINNIS SURVIVOR

Known as Jimmy, James Francis Durham was born in Sudan around 1885. His father was killed at Ginnis, while his mother and siblings fled with other Mahdists when their river craft, useful to the enemy, was attacked by the Durham Lights shortly after the battle.

The abandoned toddler was adopted by the Durhams. Sergeants nurturing him gave him his first names, the regiment his surname. It was intended to place Jimmy in a mission school in Cairo, but those looking after him loathed the idea. They promised to continue caring for Jimmy, paying the equivalent of a day's pay a month for his upkeep. So Jimmy stayed, travelling far and wide with the regiment. Aged 14, he enlisted, becoming the first full recruit African to wear ceremonial Army red. Sadly, when stationed in Ireland, Jimmy caught pneumonia, dying in 1910.



“HIDDEN BEHIND DESERT HILLS, GRENFELL'S FIRST BRIGADE SWEEPED AROUND IN A SWIFT ARC”

British soldiers dressed in scarlet arriving at the scene would strike fear into the hearts of the Mahdists, who would know that the real British Army had arrived. General Sir Frederick Stephenson, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in the region, seems to have shared this view, for he encouraged the British Infantry elements of Grenfell's force to don

their red coats for this engagement. All did, save for the Durham Lights, who had left them in Cairo before moving south. The supposed psychological impact of red – real or imagined, on either the enemy or in the ranks wearing it – meant the bulk of the British Infantry wore their traditional combat colour for the final time as battle lines around Ginnis took shape.

The opposing force was now in the overall command of the Khalifa Abdullah. He had been the Mahdi's right-hand man, who had taken spiritual and political control after the Mahdi fell ill and died mere months after the capture of Khartoum. The Khalifa appointed Emirs loyal to him as local governors and tribal leaders to maintain control, and a number of them were orchestrating the siege at the fort. Yet they were all taken by surprise when, at 5.00am on the eve of New Year's Eve, Grenfell marched his force to the outskirts of Ginnis and Kosha.

Hidden behind desert hills, Grenfell's first brigade swept around in a swift arc. The second brigade took up positions overlooking Kosha, while the mounted brigade was split to provide support to the rear of both infantry groups. Just after 6.00am hostilities commenced with an artillery bombardment of Kosha by the second brigade, augmented by gunfire from the infantry and the Lotus. Soon after, the fort garrison eagerly emerged. Meanwhile, the first brigade confronted a large Mahdist force. As they engaged, the second Brigade, joined by the fort garrison, surged beyond Kosha to knife into Ginnis itself, fighting through its streets to take control. The Mahdists were pressed back along a narrow defile. Grenfell unleashed his mounted forces upon them. Those that survived the charge fled into the desert, in full retreat.

In truth, the Battle of Ginnis was a heavily one-sided affair. The Anglo-Egyptians killed or wounded totalled barely 50, while Mahdist dead alone have been estimated at 400. The conflict is assured its footnote in history due to the red attire of the British Infantry involved, though the victory was achieved more by surprise, adroit use of superior weaponry, and the fact that the nascent Egyptian Army soldiers, whether home-grown or Sudanese, fought admirably. They combined well with their British counterparts, and did so again when the Mahdist Rebellion was finally defeated and the Sudan reclaimed by General Sir Herbert Kitchener's Anglo-Egyptian army in 1898.

CHANGE AT THE TOP #2 JUNE 1885

Damaged by Gordon's demise, the Gladstone administration falls, yet the incoming Conservative government continues the policy of withdrawal from Sudan.



Left: The historically significant Battle of Ginnis, as depicted for an 1886 edition of The Illustrated London News by Amedee Forestier

RED ONCE MORE DEC 1885

One the second-to-last day of the year, the fort at Ginnis is liberated. It is the last occasion that the majority of British Infantry fights in red coats.

PROMOTION FOR GRENFELL JAN 1886

For his leadership in the field at the noteworthy battle, Grenfell is made a Lieutenant-Colonel. Ultimately, he retires from the army with the rank of Field Marshall.

A DECADE ON, RECLAMATION MAR 1896

In part to prevent French expansion in the region, an Anglo-Egyptian army embarks under the command of Herbert Kitchener – promoted to Major-General in September – to recapture the Sudan.

AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS... SEP 1898

The Mahdist Campaign concludes with a crushing defeat of the Khalifa's forces at Omdurman. Sudan is declared an Anglo-Egyptian condominium a year later. It remains so until 1956.

A SECOND SIGNIFICANT SIEGE DEC 1885

The Khalifa pushes north. It is disputed if this is to invade Egypt or merely to counter a perceived invasion from Egypt. Either way, his forces surround Ginnis.

A FINAL DASH OF RED JUN 1896

At the Battle of Firket, the first significant encounter of Kitchener's campaign, a detachment of Connaught Rangers manning a Maxim battery reportedly wears red coats.



TRADITION AND CEREMONY IN UNIFORM

The red coat remains a symbol of the British Army after nearly four centuries of service in various forms on the parade and battle grounds

Both bound and buoyed by a tradition like no other, the British Army, and indeed the British nation, revere the iconic red coat. The uniform that projected British power and prestige across the globe during war and peace remains a key component of the pageantry and pomp of the British Army, rather than being relegated solely to remembrance.

The standard issue British Army field uniform transitioned at the dawn of the 20th century. Much of the Second Boer War was fought in light khaki issue adopted during earlier campaigns on the Indian subcontinent. With the conflict's conclusion in the spring of 1902, a darker khaki became standard issue. The familiar red coat was retained for dress uniforms, due largely to the national sentiment it engendered and its usefulness in recruiting. Even then, numerous regiments, 81 out of 86

infantry and 12 out of 31 cavalry, wore the red coat regularly during parades, official functions, and as walking-out dress for occasions not requiring full dress.

The outbreak of World War I in July 1914 brought the demise of the red coat as general issue due in part to the continuing high cost of the cochineal dye required to produce the unrivalled scarlet hue. In 1920, the Brigade of Guards began to wear the red coat in full dress once again, but most regiments restricted it only to officers for ceremonial and state functions, or for regimental bands during parades and performances.

As khaki became pervasive through the 20th century, the heritage of the red coat remained significant in the British national identity. It remains a key component of ceremonial functions, a primary indicator of the lasting pride of the British Army.

Today, although numerous regimental full dress uniforms are green or blue, Army Dress Regulations continue to assert that the red coat is "the ultimate statement of tradition and regimental identity in uniform."

While the Yeomen of the Guard and the Tower Warders retain the red and gold uniforms of the Tudor period, the modern British Army's Household Division, the Foot Guards and the Household Cavalry charged with the protection of the reigning monarch, continue to wear the rich scarlet coat. The Household Cavalry is composed of the Life Guards and Blues and Royals regiments, while the Foot Guards comprise five storied infantry regiments, the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards, and Welsh Guards.

As its name suggests, the Blues and Royals wears a distinctive dark blue jacket on ceremonial occasions, although its mess,

FRONTLINE TO CEREMONIAL DUTY

QUEEN VICTORIA RELOCATES TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE 1837

Although Queen Victoria moves her primary residence to Buckingham Palace, the Changing of the Guard is deemed to continue at St. James's Palace as well.

KHAKI REPLACES RED COAT 1902

Khaki service dress is authorised for the British Army, replacing as standard issue the iconic red coat, symbol of the British soldier around the world.

RED COAT RESUMPTION 1920

Two years after the end of World War I, the Brigade of Guards resumes wearing the traditional red coat, performing official guard and ceremonial duties for King George V.

BATTLE OF GINNIS 30 DEC, 1895

British soldiers wear the red coat into battle for the last time, defeating the Mahdi rebels in the Sudan.

SECOND BOER WAR ENDS 31 MAY, 1902

The costly Second Boer War ends in South Africa, and the experience of British soldiers in the conflict gives impetus to the issue of khaki service dress uniforms.

ROYAL WARRANT CREATES WELSH GUARDS 26 FEB, 1915

A royal warrant issued by King George V in the midst of World War I creates the Welsh Guards, one of five regiments of the Foot Guard.

IRISH GUARDS CREATED 1 APR, 1900

In recognition of the stalwart service of Irish soldiers in the Second Boer War, Queen Victoria authorises the creation of the Irish Guards.

GREAT BRITAIN DECLARES WAR 4 AUG, 1914

Britain's declaration of war plunges the nation into World War I and ends the era of the red coat as a general issue uniform item for official functions, walking out, or parades.



or formal evening dress, includes a scarlet jacket with dark blue facings. The regiment dons a metal cuirass to cover the torso and a matching helmet with red plume. Formed in 1969 with the merger of the Royal Horse Guards and the Royal Dragoons, the Blues and Royals traces its origins to Cromwell's New Model Army. Prince Harry wore the regimental uniform to the wedding of his brother, Prince William, to Catherine Middleton in 2011.

The Life Guards wear the red tunic during ceremonial occasions along with a metal cuirass covering the torso and a gleaming, white plumed helmet to match. Its regimental trumpeters wear a red plume, and its farriers wear black helmet plumes and blue tunics.

Formed in Scotland in 1650, the Coldstream Guards is the oldest regiment in continuous active service in the British Army. Although the Coldstream Guards predate the Grenadier Guards, the Grenadier Guards are considered senior. The Scots Guards originated in 1642 during the reign of King Charles I of England and Scotland and were incorporated into the English Establishment in 1686. By order of Queen Victoria, the Irish Guards Regiment was formed on 1 April, 1900, to commemorate the service of Irish soldiers during the Second Boer War. Prince William wore the brilliant scarlet tunic of the Irish Guards as his wedding attire in 2011. A royal warrant issued by King George V brought the Welsh Guards into existence on 26 February, 1915.

To aid in distinguishing the infantry regiments of the Foot Guard from one another, the buttons on their vivid red coats are arranged differently. The Grenadier Guards tunic buttons

are equally spaced in a single row, while the Coldstream Guards' are in pairs, the Scots Guards' in groups of three, the Irish Guards' in groups of four, and the Welsh Guards' groups of five.

Ceremonial occasions involving the Household Division include state funerals, coronations, royal weddings, the State Opening of Parliament, Trooping the Colour, and visits from foreign heads of state, as well as the familiar Changing of the Guard and the annual Beating Retreat. The Changing of the Guard takes place at each of the three royal residences. At Buckingham Palace it occurs in the forecourt at 11:30am in the summer and every other day in the winter. Changing the Queen's Life Guard takes place daily on Horse Guards Parade as troops of the Household Cavalry guard the entrance to Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace. The Changing of the Windsor Castle Guard is accomplished in the precincts of Windsor.

The Household Division stands out in glorious scarlet during Trooping the Colour, the monarch's annual birthday parade. Trooping the Colour, held on Horse Guards Parade in London, involves nearly 2,000 officers, troops, and bandsmen. With its origins in preparations and drills for war, Beating Retreat today takes place on consecutive evenings in June on Horse Guards Parade.

During each of these ceremonies, amid moments of military grandeur, celebration, sorrow, and exhilaration, the iconic red coat is a constant – a reminder of Great Britain's glorious past, the promise of its future, and the lasting vigilance of the British Army.

AN AMERICAN REDCOAT?

In 1754, Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie authorised the Virginia Regiment as a provincial unit to support British troops in North America. The future commander of the Continental Army and President of the United States George Washington began his military career as an officer of the Virginia Regiment, gaining fame during the French and Indian War of 1754-1763. Wearing the Virginia Regiment's dark blue outer garment, a red waistcoat, and other distinctly British uniform elements, Washington was appointed envoy to the French and Indians as far north as Lake Erie. As senior American aide to General Edward Braddock, he survived the terrible defeat at the Monongahela and was promoted to colonel. Prior to the American Revolution, Washington coveted a British Army commission and longed to wear the distinctive red coat of an officer of the crown.



GUARDS MACHINE GUN REGIMENT DISBANDS 26 FEB, 1920

Following a brief period serving as the sixth regiment of the Foot Guard, the Guards Machine Gun Regiment, initially formed in 1915, is disbanded. The Gladstone administration falls, yet the incoming Conservative government continues the policy of withdrawal from Sudan.

RED COAT REDRESS 1980

A measure to reinstate the iconic red coat as a formal component of the full dress British Army uniform fails due to a general lack of support.

CORONATION OF ELIZABETH II 2 JUN, 1953

Queen Elizabeth II, destined to be the longest reigning monarch in British history, is crowned at Westminster Abbey with troops of the Household Division participating in the ceremonies.

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT TELEVISED 28 OCT, 1958

A worldwide audience views the pomp and grandeur of the State Opening of Parliament, which is televised and filmed in its entirety for the first time. The ceremony is highly stylised and replete with tradition, including red-coated officers.

WELSH GUARDS ESCORT PRINCESS DIANA 6 SEP, 1997

Following the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, members of the Welsh Guards escort her coffin during the funeral procession to Westminster Abbey.

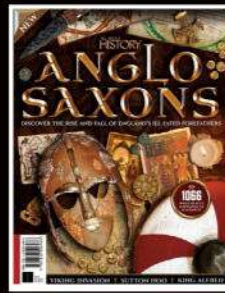
WILLIAM AND KATE WED 29 APR, 2011

Prince William wears the brilliant scarlet tunic of an Irish Guards officer during his marriage to Catherine Middleton at Westminster Abbey.

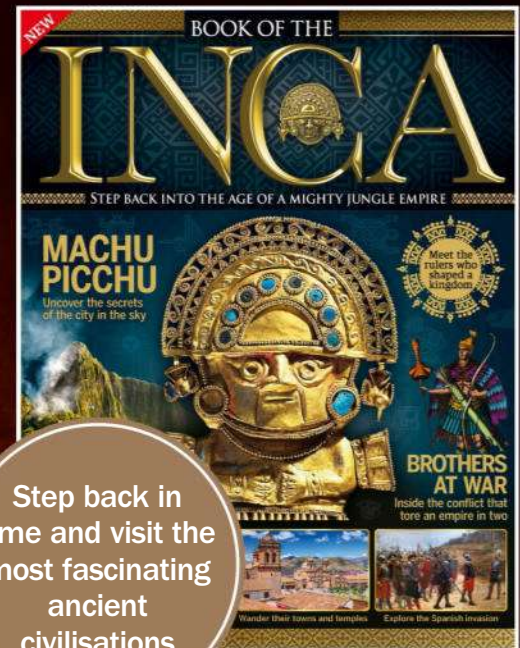
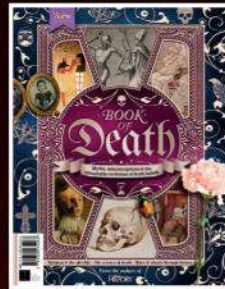
QUEEN ELIZABETH'S BIRTHDAY JUN 2017

Queen Elizabeth observes her 91st birthday, although it is officially celebrated on 17 June with the annual Trooping the Colour. In battle a regiment's colours (flags) were used as a rally point: the ceremony echoes this tradition.

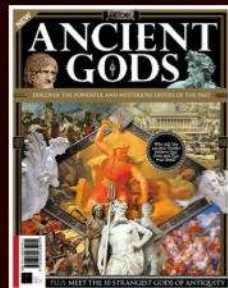
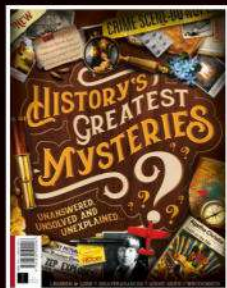




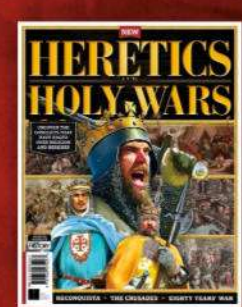
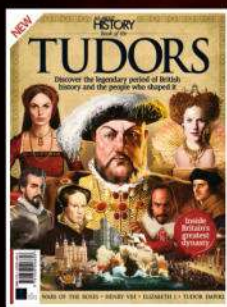
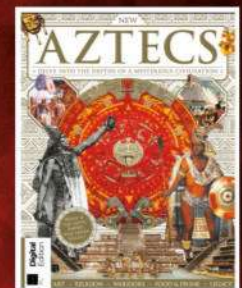
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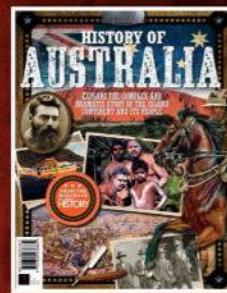
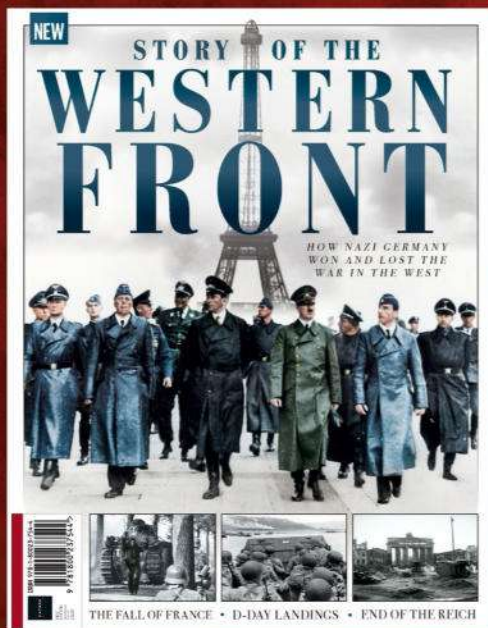
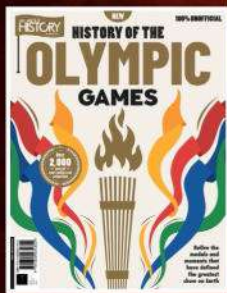
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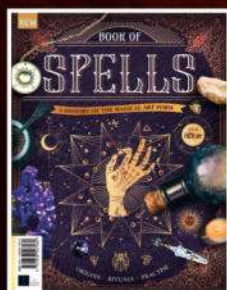
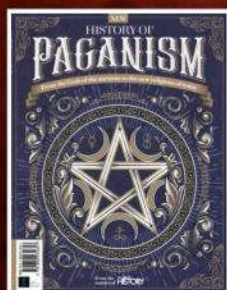
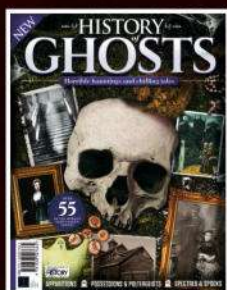


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